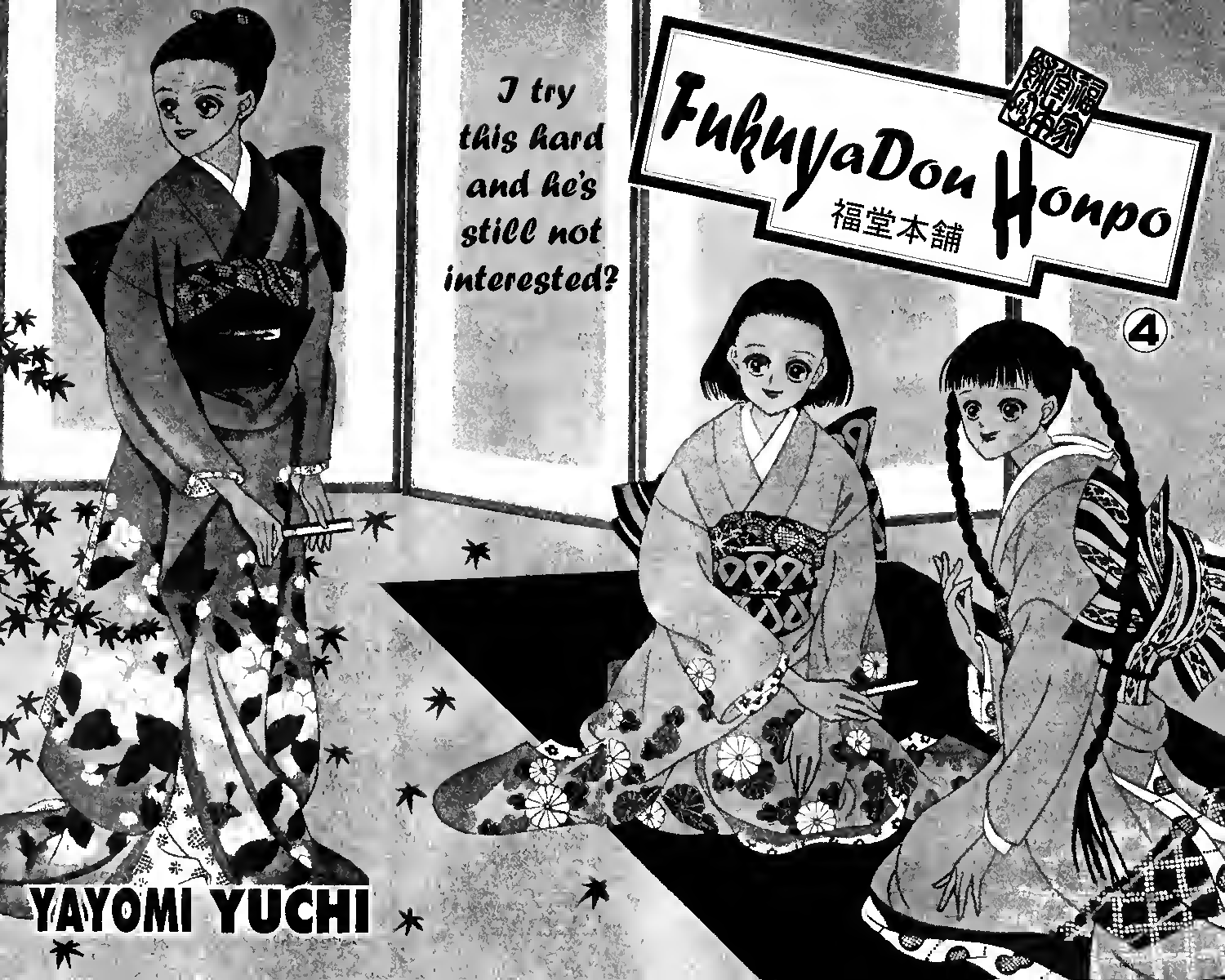
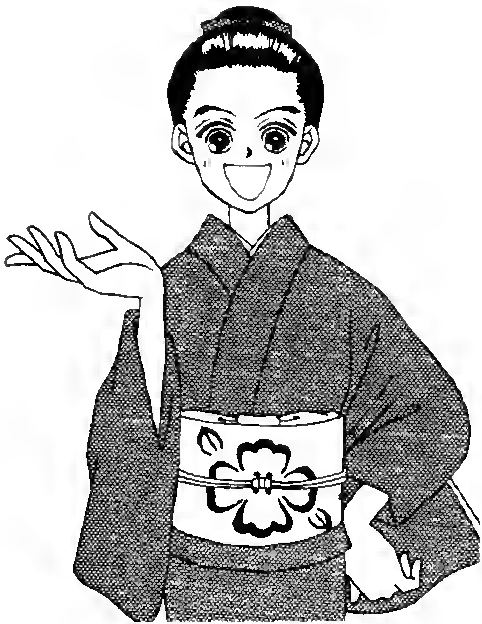
FINALLY,
.....
TANUKI AND TANUKI ARE TOGETHER.
hmm
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

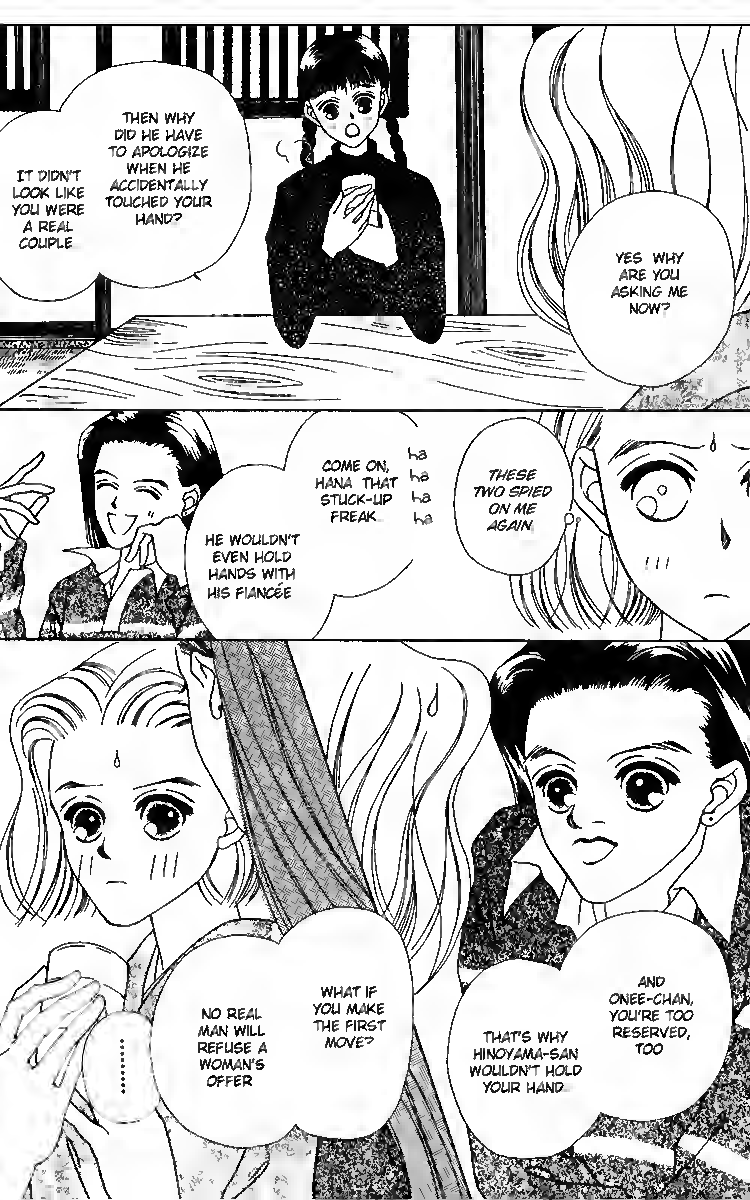

I try this hard and he's still not interested?
FukuyaDou Honpo
福堂本舗
4
YAYOMI YUCHI



OF COURSE. WE'LL BE A FAMILY SOON. I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU. THIS IS ALL THE MONEY I HAVE.
ARE THESE ALL OF YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS?
IS THAT SO.
Smile
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER 2 OR 3 BOOKS HE'S NOT SHOWING ME.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'VE HIDDEN ANOTHER FIVE BOOKS, DOES SHE?
HOW ABOUT THE HONEYMOON?
IS THE FALL OKAY?

YES.
SOME TIME AROUND THEN.
SEPTEMBER SHOULD BE FINE.
Touch
OR MAYBE YOU PREFER OCTOBER?
AH, SORRY.
.....
BUT I INSIST.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T NEED A HONEYMOON.

I JUST DON'T GET IT
YEAH. HINOYAMA-SAN'S CHECKBOOKS.
He must have more.
SOMETHING IS FISHY.
THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT.
DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO KNOW HIS ACCOUNT NUMBER.
Oh you!
I can't believe we're related
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE THINKING ABOUT?
ISN'T ABOUT THE BANK ACCOUNTS.
WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND
ONEE-CHAN, YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HINOYAMA-SAN, RIGHT?


IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU WERE A REAL COUPLE
THEN WHY DID HE HAVE TO APOLOGIZE WHEN HE ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED YOUR HAND?
YES WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME NOW?
HE WOULDN'T EVEN HOLD HANDS WITH HIS FIANCÉE
COME ON, HANA THAT STUCK-UP FREAK
ha ha ha ha
THESE TWO SPIED ON ME AGAIN
NO REAL MAN WILL REFUSE A WOMAN'S OFFER
WHAT IF YOU MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?
THAT'S WHY HINOYAMA-SAN WOULDN'T HOLD YOUR HAND
AND ONEE-CHAN, YOU'RE TOO RESERVED, TOO

ARARE!
A GUY WHOSE HEAD IS FILLED WITH MONEY AND MONEY ALONE IS INCAPABLE OF LOVE
BUT, WELL, HINOYAMA-SAN ISN'T THAT CRAZY ABOUT YOU ANYWAY.
IF YOU LEAVE IT AS IT IS, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S PATHETIC THAT A WOMAN'S FIANCEE WON'T EVEN HOLD HER HAND?
ARARE
WHAT ABOUT ARARE-CHAN?
YOU'RE NOT ON HAND HOLDING TERMS WITH YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER, EITHER. DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU AS PATHETIC?
What did you say?!

WHAT?!
DURING A FOLKDANCE.
SURE.
AND YOU? HAVE YOU EVER HELD HANDS WITH YOUR GUY?
THIS BRAT! WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
.....
IORI-KUN WOULD NEVER DO THAT!
PSHAW! AND I THOUGHT THAT THE CUTE IORI HAD TURNED INTO A HUNGRY WOLF.

STOP MAKING HIM SOUND DIRTY.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW? HE MIGHT LOOK LIKE A KID IN GRADE SCHOOL, BUT HE'S ALREADY 15 INSIDE.
SHUT UP!
EVEN NOW, KENJI-SAN DOESN'T SEE YOU AS HIS GIRLFRIEND, DOES HE?
YOU KNOW NOTHING. IF I WANT, I CAN HAVE KENJI AT MY BECK AND CALL.
I'M GOING TO BED!
Ho!
...
Dammit!

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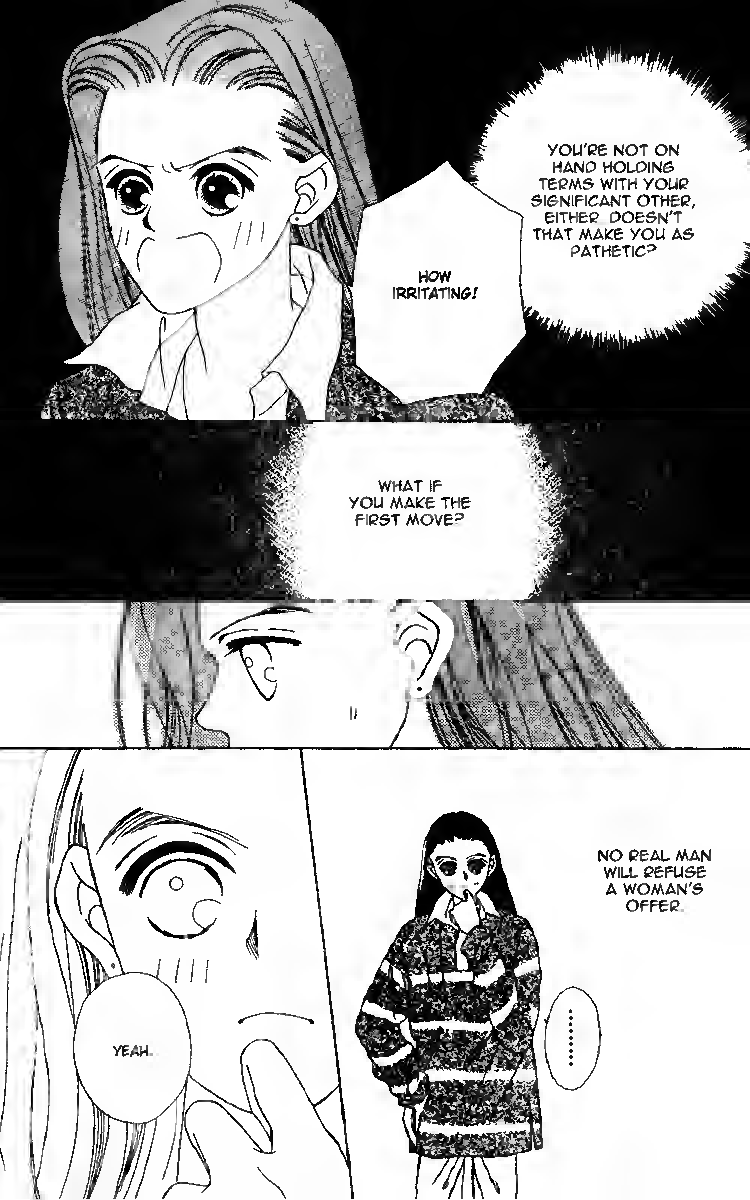
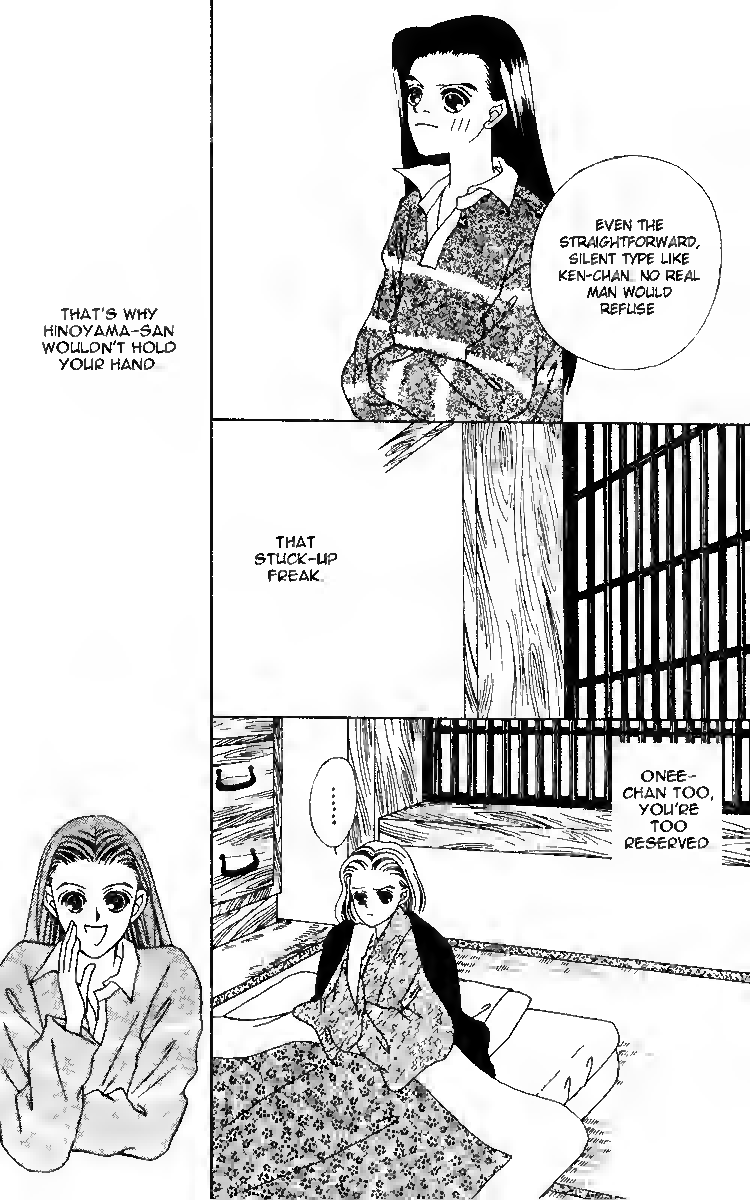

YOU'RE NOT ON HAND HOLDING TERMS WITH YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER, EITHER. DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU AS PATHETIC?
HOW IRRITATING!
WHAT IF YOU MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?
NO REAL MAN WILL REFUSE A WOMAN'S OFFER.
.....
YEAH.


EVEN THE STRAIGHTFORWARD, SILENT TYPE LIKE KEN-CHAN. NO REAL MAN WOULD REFUSE
THAT'S WHY HINOYAMA-SAN WOULDN'T HOLD YOUR HAND.
THAT STUCK-UP FREAK.
ONEE-CHAN TOO, YOU'RE TOO RESERVED
.....

IF YOU LEAVE IT AS IT IS, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S PATHETIC THAT A WOMAN'S FIANCÉE WON'T EVEN HOLD HER HAND?
IS IT TRUE?
WHAT IF ONEE-CHAN MAKES THE FIRST MOVE?
.....
MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?
YEAH
ONLY A PANSY WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED.

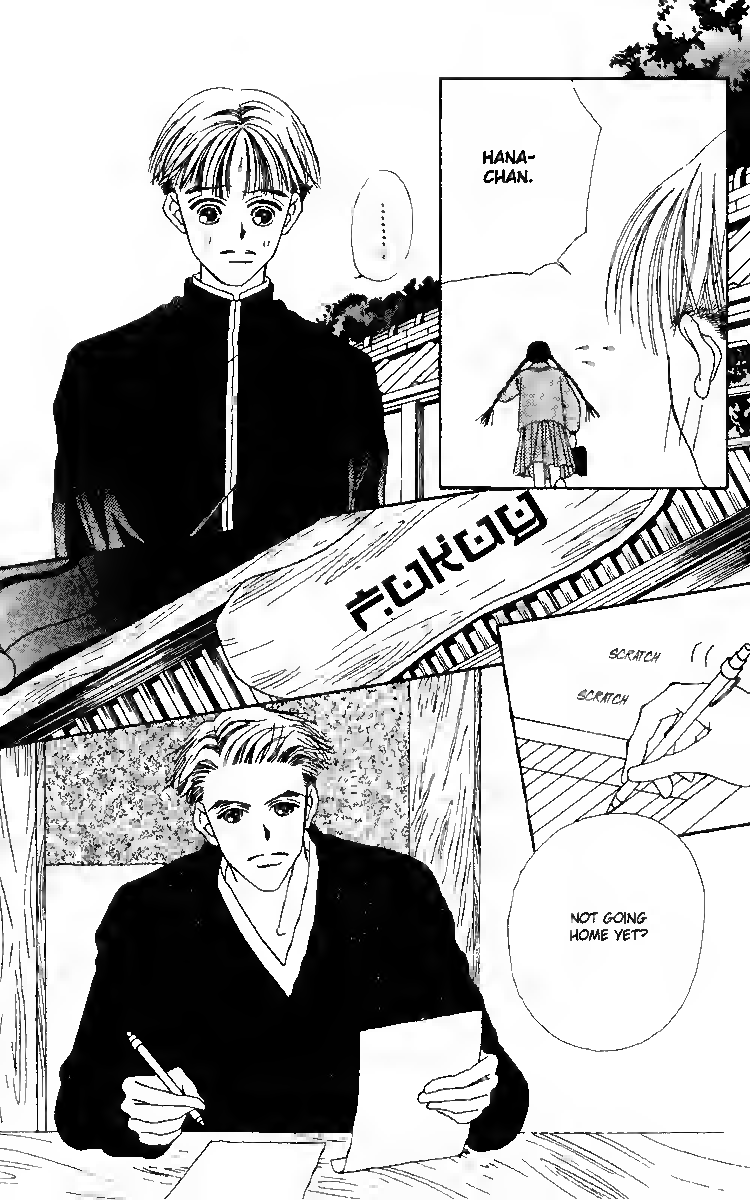
SORRY, IT'S MY FAULT WE'RE HEADING HOME LATE.
DON'T WORRY.
WE PROMISED WE'D GO HOME TOGETHER.
BY THE WAY, YOU WERE IN THE TEACHER'S OFFICE FOR SO LONG.
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
ABOUT YOUR CHOICE OF HIGH SCHOOL?
.....
YEAH...

COULD IT BE THAT YOU WANT TO GO TO ANOTHER SCHOOL?
AH... NO.
I'M RELIEVED. WE PROMISED WE'D GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL.
IF YOU SUDDENLY CHANGED YOUR MIND, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
YEAH
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
OH, IT'S VERY LATE TODAY. LET ME WALK YOU HOME
EH?

HANA.
HMM?
.....
THE STREET IS SO DARK. I'M A LITTLE SCARED OF WALKING ALONE.
I'M GLAD.

HANA-CHAN!
EH....?
EH?
EH?
HANA, I...
IO...
HOW DO YOU KNOW? HE MIGHT LOOK LIKE A KID IN GRADE SCHOOL, BUT HE'S ALREADY 15 INSIDE

HUH?
UHM...
IORI-KUN, ERM..!!
OH...
lets go
AH!
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
I-I HAVE TO GO NOW.
B-BYE.


HANA-CHAN.
.....
F.OKOO
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
NOT GOING HOME YET?

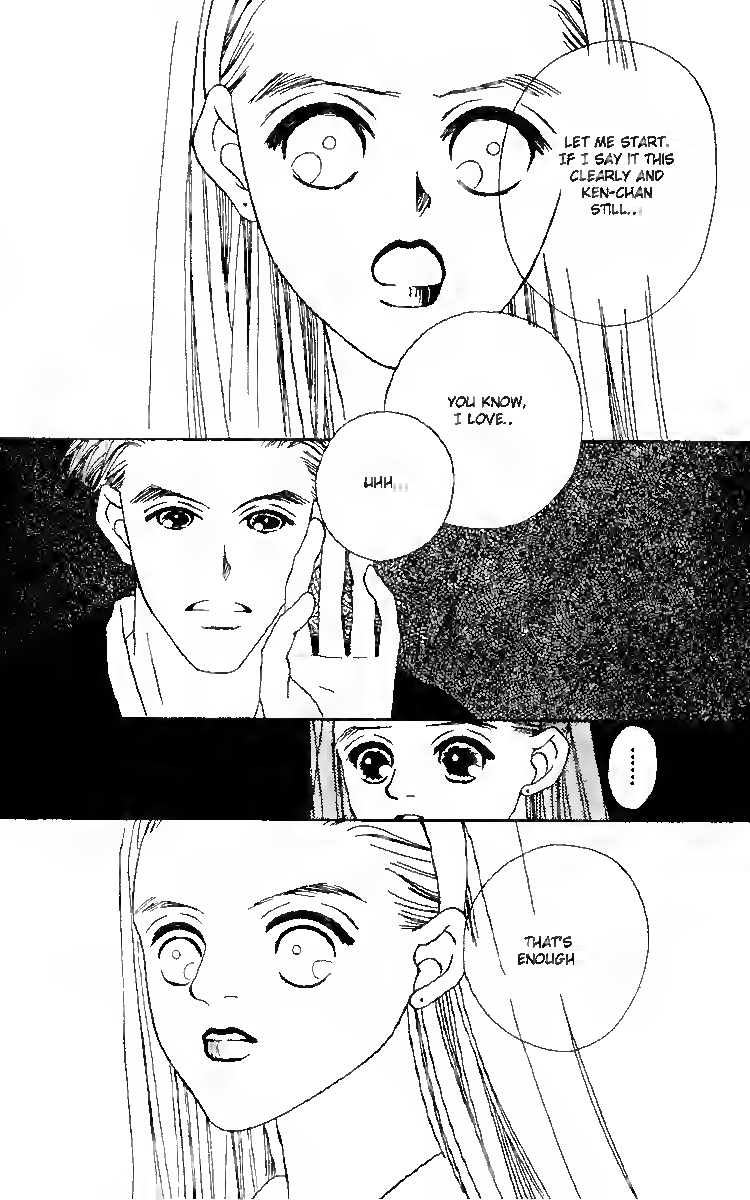
SCRAPE
WHAT?
...I SEE.
YEAH, SOON THOUGH.
CAN'T I JUST SIT HERE?
.....
SI----------LENCE
.....

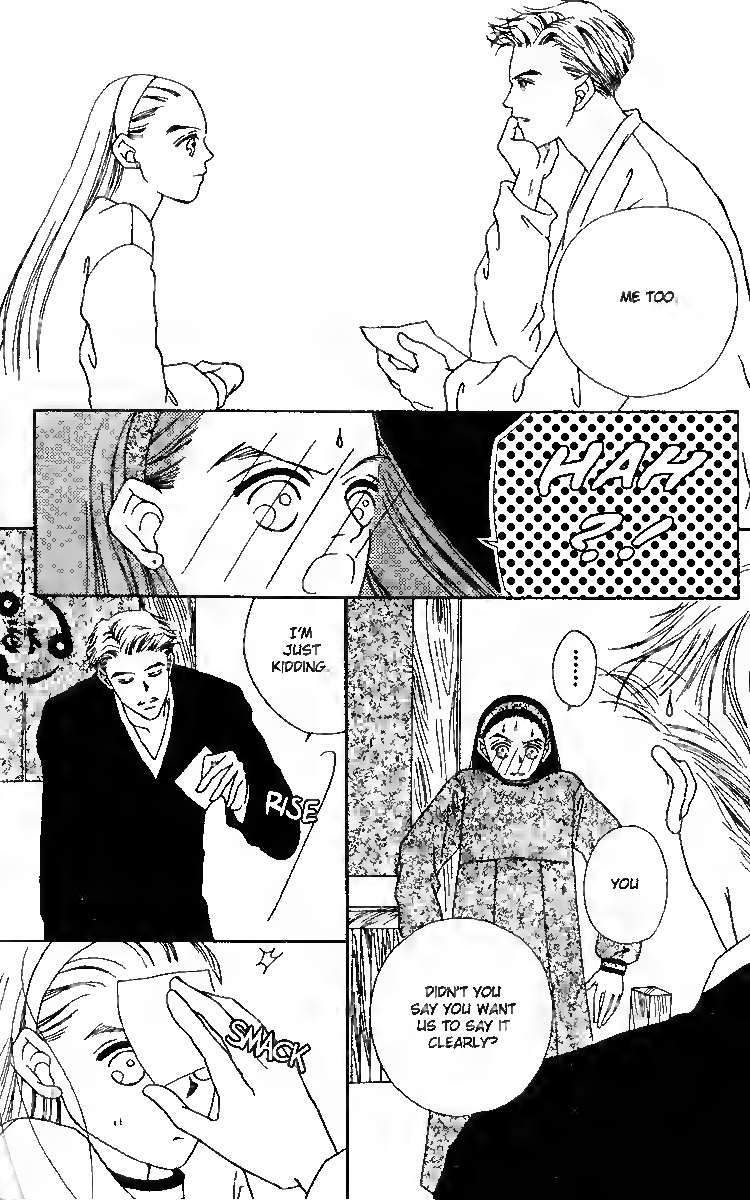
NATURAL.
ACT NATURAL.
I MUST ACT NATURAL.

NOTHING. I THOUGHT YOU WERE AWFULLY QUIET SO I WONDERED WHAT YOU WERE THINKING.
WHA-
WHAT?
WELL, KEN-CHAN.
YOU USED TO THINK YOU WOULD TAKE OVER THE SHOP WITH ONEE-CHAN, RIGHT?
WHAT MADE YOU ASK THAT NOW?
WH-WHAT IF
IT'S ME AND YOU NOW?
SI----------LENT
THIS IS SOOOO UNNATURAL.

MOM?
ERM, NOTHING
DID THE MADAM SAY SOMETHING?
I KNOW ONEE-CHAN IS A GOOD LADY
BUT SHE LACKS CHARM AS A WOMAN...
KEN-CHAN YOU MAY NOT BE PICKY, BUT I REALLY AM MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ONE-CHAN.
DON'T YOU THINK I'M A MUCH MORE INTERESTING CHOICE?
OH, ARARE-CHAN ...
WELL..

COULD YOU NOT DO MATH WHILE WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION?!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
I SEE THAT'S QUITE A HEADACHE
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
.....
I'LL SAY IT FIRST THEN.


LET ME START. IF I SAY IT THIS CLEARLY AND KEN-CHAN STILL..!
YOU KNOW, I LOVE..
WHH...
.....
THAT'S ENOUGH

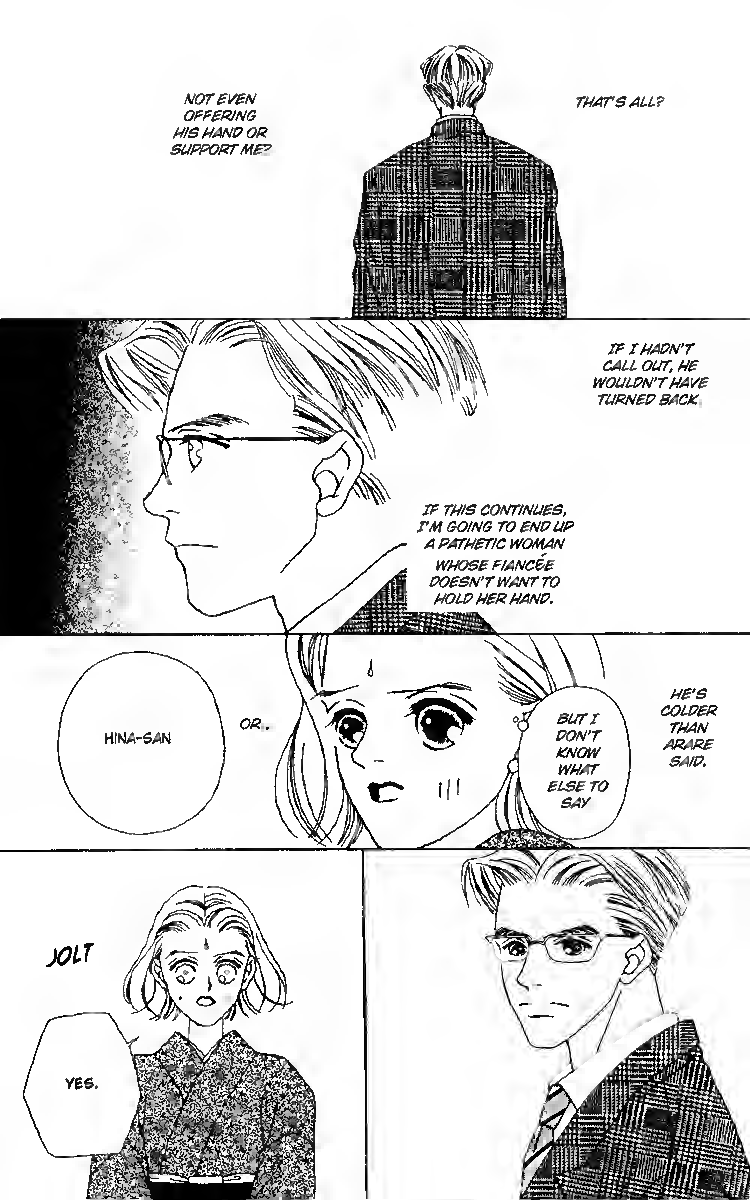

ME TOO
HAH?
I'M JUST KIDDING
RISE
SMACK
.....
YOU
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANT US TO SAY IT CLEARLY?

Return goods
.....
PUT THE POST-IT ON THE BOX ON THE BALCONY
SO IT WON'T GET MIXED UP WITH THE NEW GOODS TO BE DELIVERED TOMORROW.
BYE --
SLIDE
BANG
.....
DAMN YOU. A GIRL SAID THAT AND YOU MADE A JOKE?!
SNATCH
EVEN THE TANUKI FREAK WOULDN'T DO THIS!

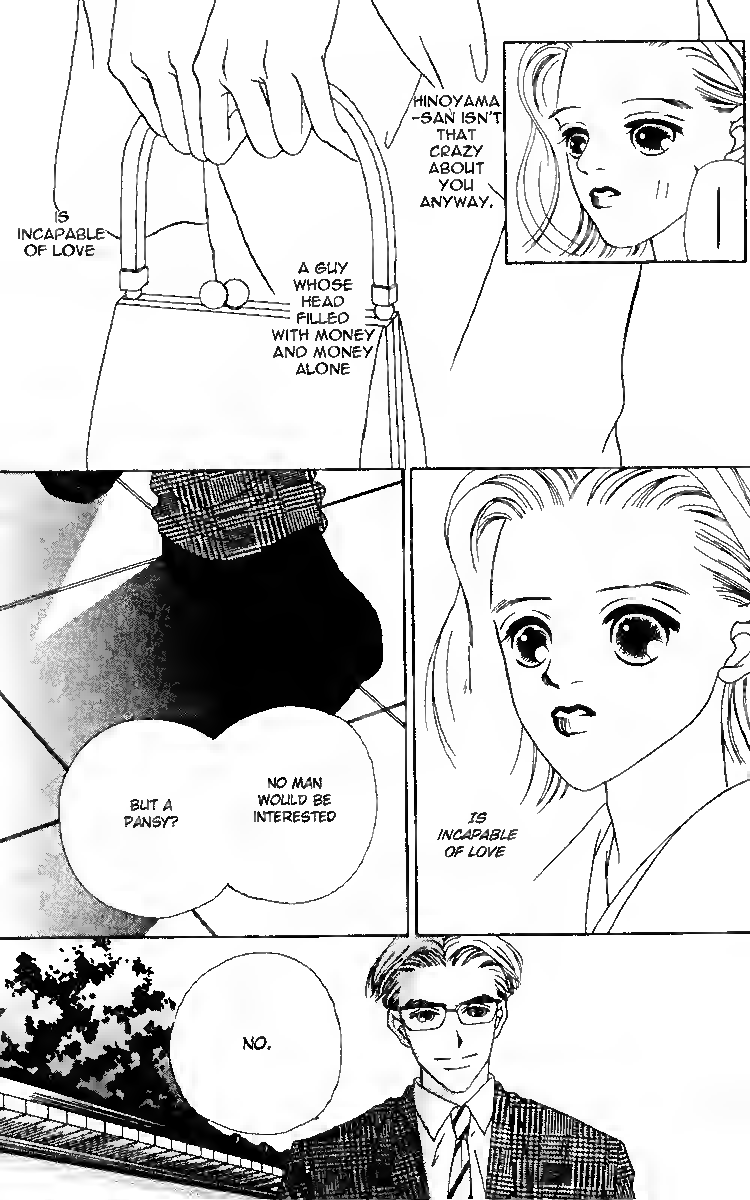
Return goods
KEN-CHAN, DO YOU HATE ME THAT MUCH?
HMPH!
EVEN NOW, KENJI-SAN DOESN'T SEE YOU AS HIS GIRLFRIEND, DOES HE?
I ALMOST PUT MYSELF RIGHT INTO THE MADAM'S TRAP.
.....
SOMETIMES THE GUY WHO DOESN'T TAKE THE BAIT IS ACTUALLY QUITE CLEVER.
SO DANGER-OUS.
THAT WAS CLOSE.

MAY I HAVE A DRINK WITH YOU TODAY?
EH? THAT'S STRANGE.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T DRINK.
I'M A LIGHTWEIGHT, REALLY.
SO I ONLY DRINK IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE I TRUST.

tad tap
tap tad tad
EHM... HINOYAMA -SAN.
YES.
I THINK I'M A BIT TIPSY...
YOU MUST BE YOUR FACE IS QUITE PINK
LET'S WALK MORE SLOWLY THEN.


NOT EVEN OFFERING HIS HAND OR SUPPORT ME?
THAT'S ALL?
IF I HADN'T CALL OUT, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED BACK.
IF THIS CONTINUES, I'M GOING TO END UP A PATHETIC WOMAN WHOSE FIANCÉE DOESN'T WANT TO HOLD HER HAND.
HINA-SAN
OR..
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY
HE'S COLDER THAN ARARE SAID.
JOLT
YES.

smile
WE'RE HERE.
EH!?
OH
GOOD NIGHT.
YOU SHOULD GO TO BED EARLY TODAY.
AT THE END
Pathetic woman
SLIDE
BANG
SPEECHLESS


HINOYAMA-SAN ISN'T THAT CRAZY ABOUT YOU ANYWAY.
A GUY WHOSE HEAD FILLED WITH MONEY AND MONEY ALONE
IS INCAPABLE OF LOVE
IS INCAPABLE OF LOVE
NO MAN WOULD BE INTERESTED
BUT A PANSY?
NO.

PERHAPS

HOWEVER
.....
zaa
zaa
zaa
zaa
zaa
zaa

Higashi
Higashi are dry sweets made of rice, sticky rice, wheat, beans, sugar, and agar, usually molded into shapes of flowers, the buds but are a delicacy enjoyed with the bitter taste of Japanese tea.
Source: The Way of Tea
十果子

Fukuyadou Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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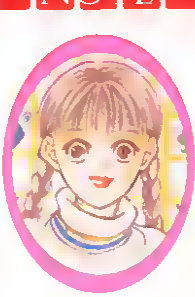
AUTHOR'S NOTE



I have a pair of shoes that I love to wear everywhere I go. I think they suit me well, the same way writing Fukuyadou Honpo does. I've met many people while writing this story, staff in the editorial department, research sources, and the readers who wrote to me. So I think this series suits me well, too.

In this book a Maiko named Shijaku makes an appearance, but what's her significance?

-Yuchi Yayomi

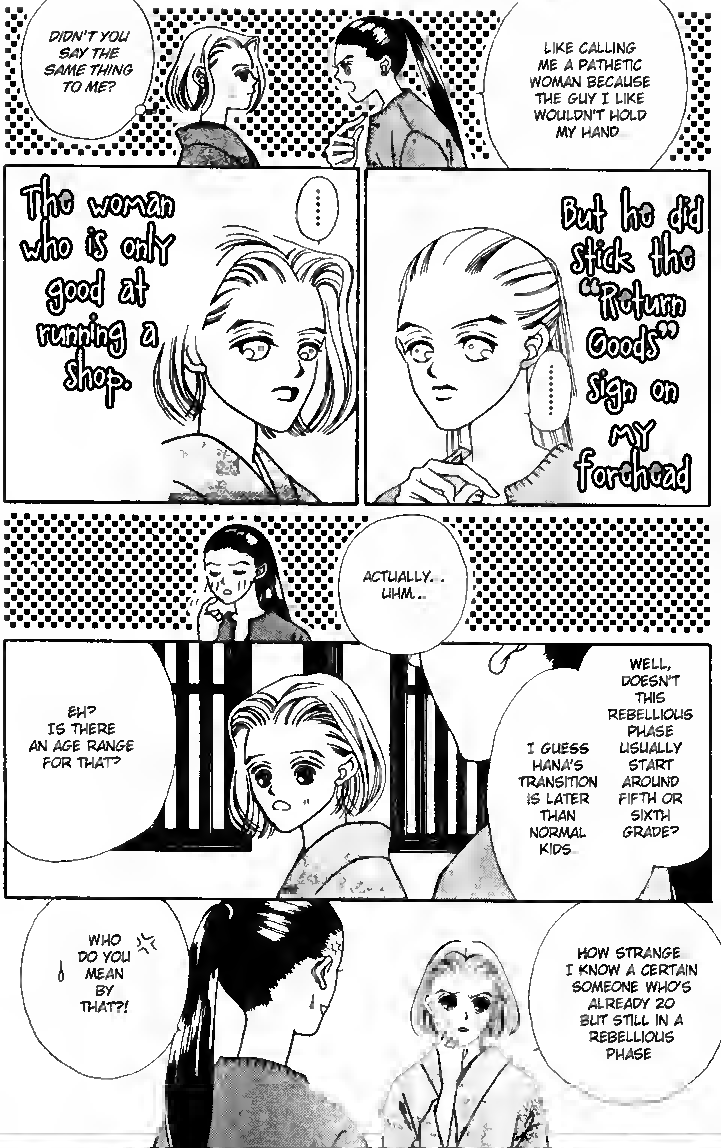
YAYOMI YUCHI
遊知　やよみ
FukuyaDouHonpo
福堂本舗
4

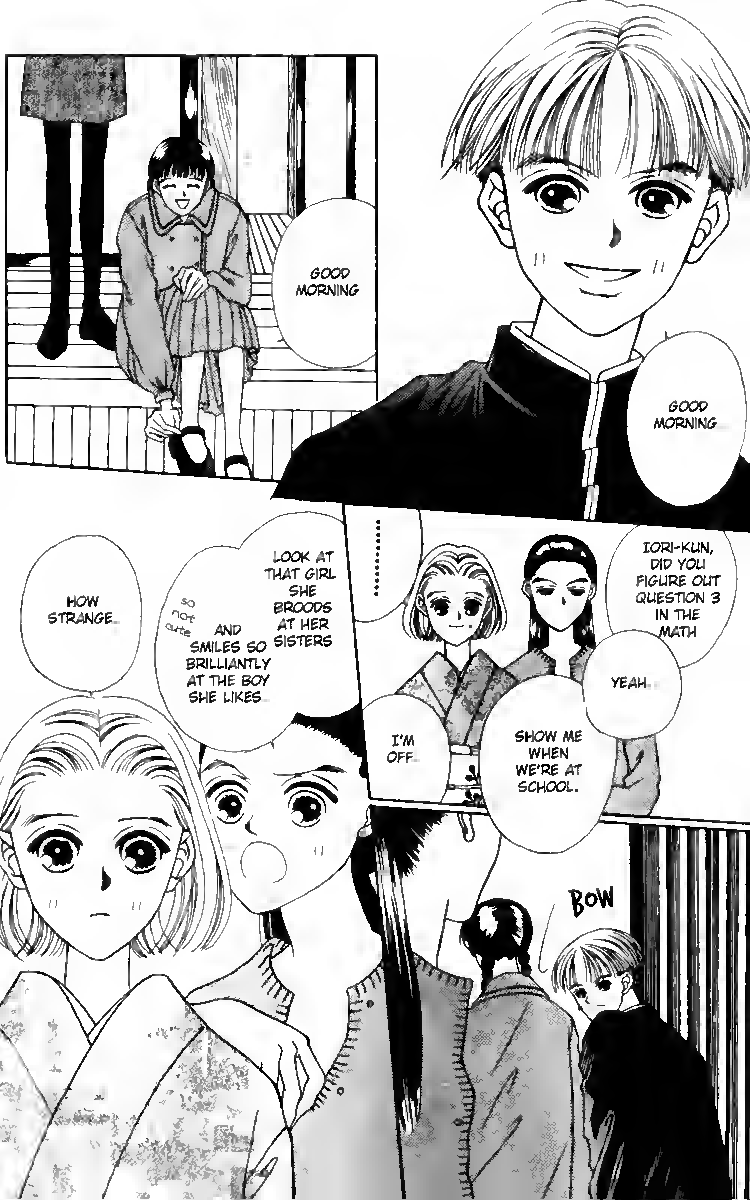
The Rebellious Stage (1)
FukuyaDou Honpo
福堂本舗

BROOD
.....
ARE YOU STILL MAD AT ME FOR NOT TELLING YOU IORI-KUN CALLED?
I SAID I WAS SORRY
I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME.
WHAT IF IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
RELAX THAT LITTLE BOY IS GOING TO WALK TO SCHOOL WITH YOU ANYWAY, ISN'T HE?
YEAH, SHE'S RIGHT
STOP CALLING IORI-KUN A LITTLE BOY!

I SAID IT'S TERRIBLE BECAUSE IT'S REALLY TERRIBLE.
YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS CHALK AND BUTTER YET WHEN GOING UP AGAINST ME, YOU SING THE SAME SONG!
REALLY? BUT I DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
YEAH IT'S AS TASTY AS USUAL
THE MISO SOUP TASTES TERRIBLE.
ARARE-CHAN ALWAYS CAUSES PEOPLE TROUBLE
BECAUSE SHE NEVER THINKS THAT SHE MIGHT BE THE PROBLEM
EH?
TASTE-LESS.
WHAT?!
COME ON. DON'T RUIN THE MORNING.

THE REBELLIOUS PHASE HAS COME.
HA HA HA
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?
YEAH...
IN NINTH GRADE?
ISN'T IT A BIT LATE?
WHAT AN INSENSITIVE FAMILY.
THE HARMLESS ONE FINALLY GOES THROUGH HER REBELLIOUS PHASE.
NO WONDER SHE HAS BEEN PICKING A FIGHT WITH US LATELY.


DIDN'T YOU SAY THE SAME THING TO ME?
LIKE CALLING ME A PATHETIC WOMAN BECAUSE THE GUY I LIKE WOULDN'T HOLD MY HAND
The woman who is only good at running a shop.
.....
But he did stick the "Return Goods" sign on my forehead
.....
ACTUALLY.. UHM..
EH? IS THERE AN AGE RANGE FOR THAT?
I GUESS HANA'S TRANSITION IS LATER THAN NORMAL KIDS
WELL, DOESN'T THIS REBELLIOUS PHASE USUALLY START AROUND FIFTH OR SIXTH GRADE?
WHO DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
HOW STRANGE I KNOW A CERTAIN SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY 20 BUT STILL IN A REBELLIOUS PHASE


GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING
IORI-KUN, DID YOU FIGURE OUT QUESTION 3 IN THE MATH
YEAH.
SHOW ME WHEN WE'RE AT SCHOOL.
I'M OFF.
BOW
LOOK AT THAT GIRL SHE BROODS AT HER SISTERS
AND SMILES SO BRILLIANTLY AT THE BOY SHE LIKES.
SO CUTE
HOW STRANGE.

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE AROUND HERE WHO IS REBELLIOUS EVEN WHEN HER SIGNIFICANT OTHER IS AROUND.
IORI-KUN, YOU CALLED ME YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
SORRY I DIDN'T CALL YOU BACK.
AH, YEAH
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
ERM ...
NOTHING SPECIAL
IS THAT SO .

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STRANGE SEWING
WHAT?!
THE ONLY PERSON WHO IS CAPABLE OF DOING THIS...
MUST BE ARARE!
THROW!
HOW COULD SHE DO SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE TO MY CLOTHES?!
ONEE-CHAN, YOU'VE GOTTA FIX IT FOR ME.
WHO'S GOING TO WEAR THIS UGLY THING?
.....

BUT SHE TRIED SO HARD TO FIX YOUR UNIFORM FOR YOU
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT SHE'S GOOD AT, BUT SHE TRIED SO HARD...
Though I agree that her needle-work sucks.
BUT USUALLY YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FIX MY CLOTHES. WHY DID ARARE HAVE TO DO IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HMM?
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THANK YOUR LOVING SISTER
.....
OH, YEAH THAT'S MY WORK.
YOU SEWED THE BUTTONS, RIGHT?

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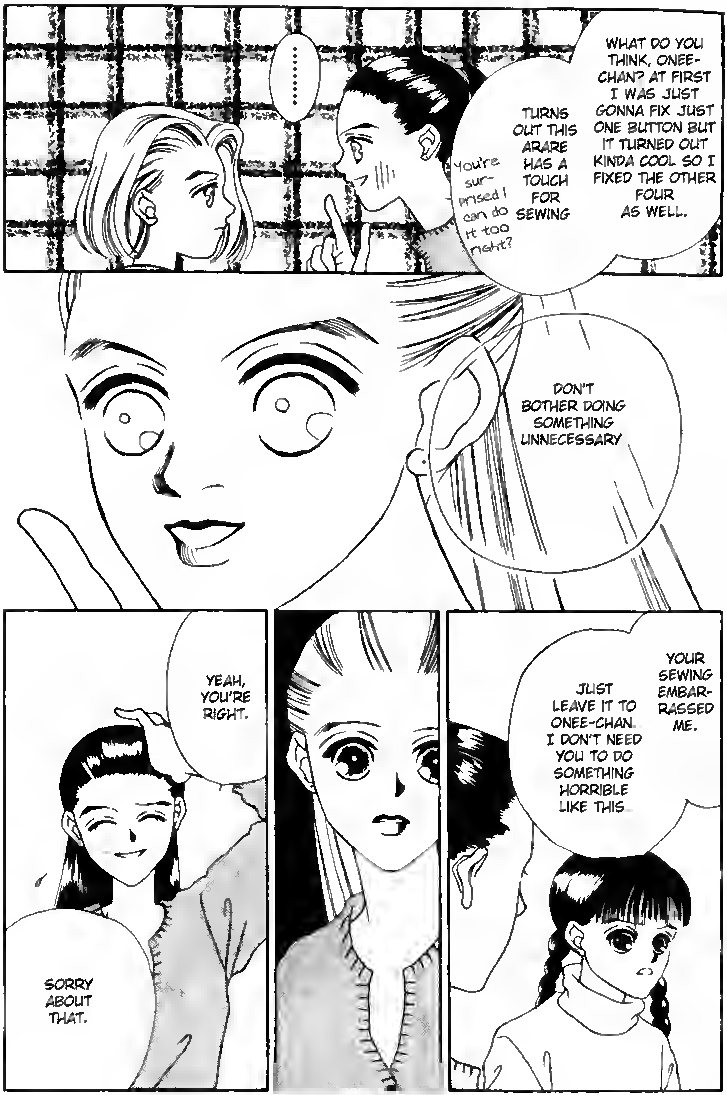
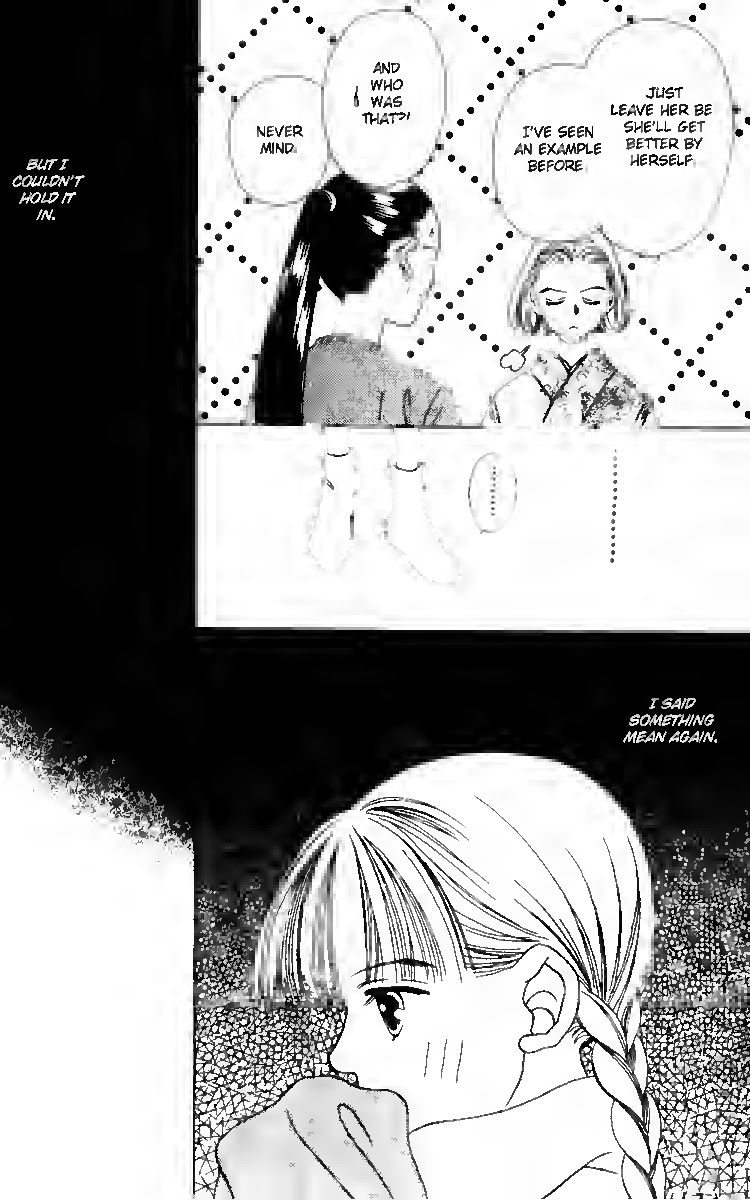
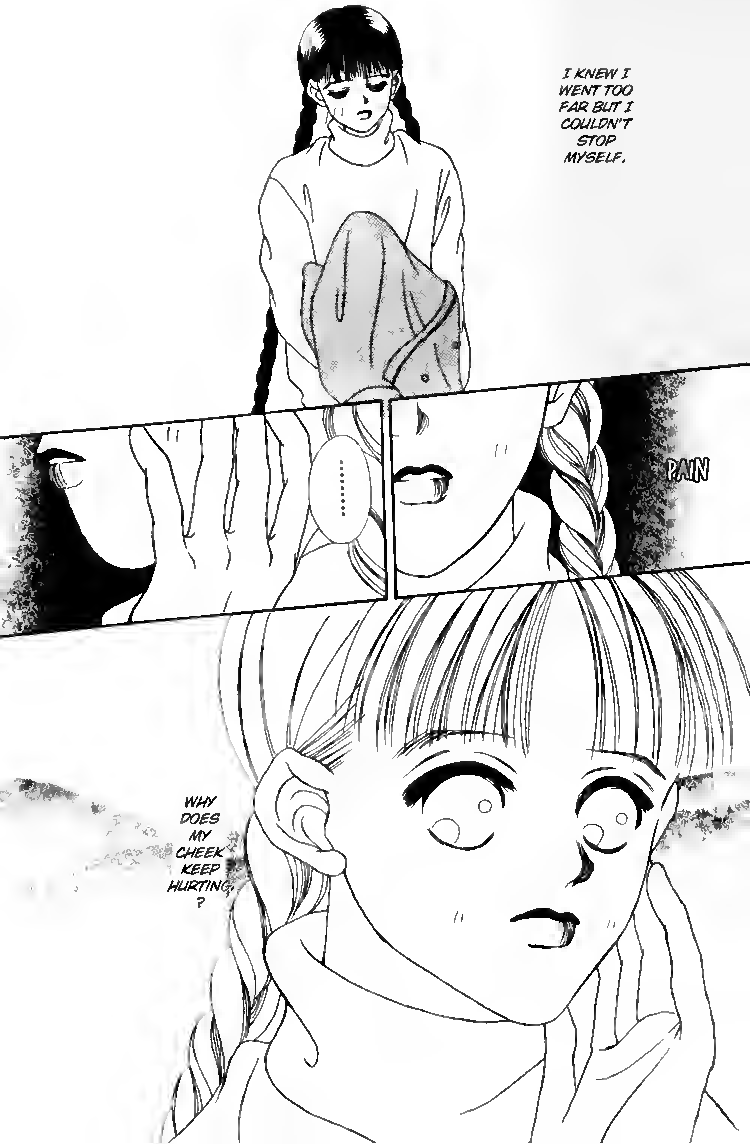

.....
You're surprised! I can do it too, right?
TURNS OUT THIS ARARE HAS A TOUCH FOR SEWING
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ONEE-CHAN? AT FIRST I WAS JUST GONNA FIX JUST ONE BUTTON BUT IT TURNED OUT KINDA COOL SO I FIXED THE OTHER FOUR AS WELL.
DON'T BOTHER DOING SOMETHING UNNECESSARY
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YOUR SEWING EMBARRASSED ME.
JUST LEAVE IT TO ONEE-CHAN. I DON'T NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING HORRIBLE LIKE THIS

WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO DO IT YOURSELF?
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN SEW IT PERFECTLY, TO THE POINT THAT YOU WON'T BE EMBARRASSED.
HANA.
.....
.....
FINE!
SLAM
IS THAT OKAY?
WEREN'T WE TOO HARD ON HER?
DON'T WORRY

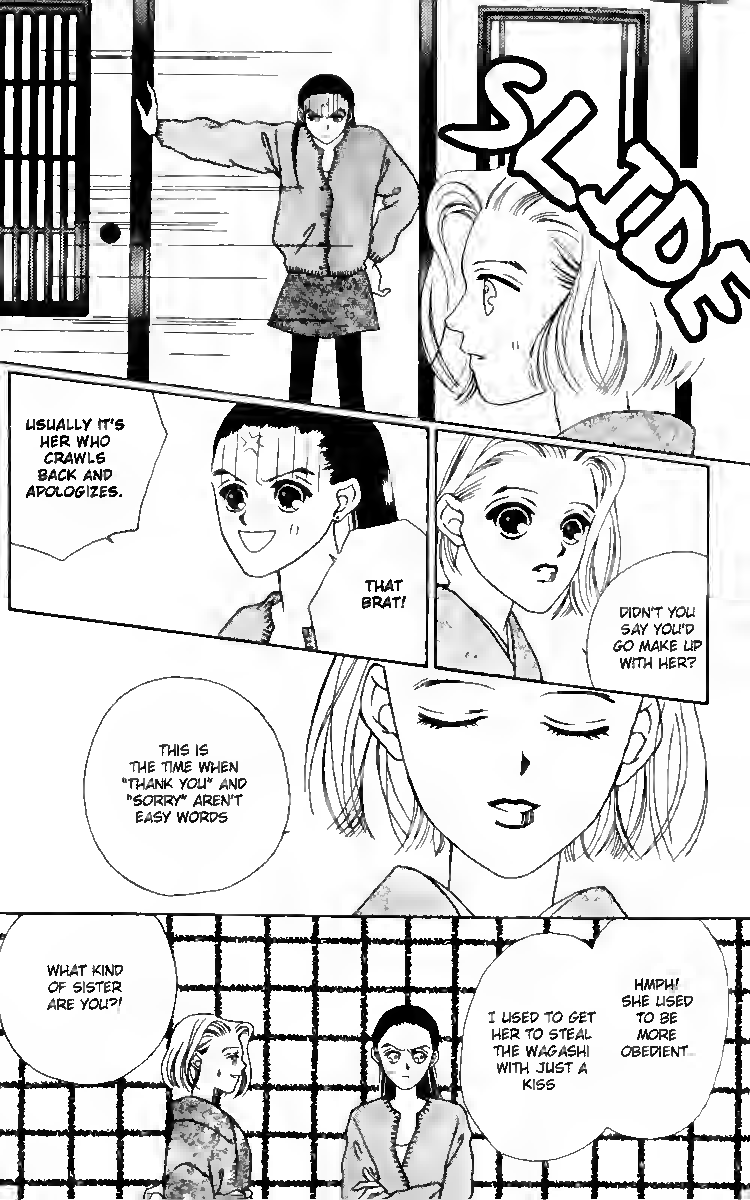

BUT I COULDN'T HOLD IT IN.
NEVER MIND.
AND WHO WAS THAT?!
I'VE SEEN AN EXAMPLE BEFORE.
JUST LEAVE HER BE SHE'LL GET BETTER BY HERSELF.
I SAID SOMETHING MEAN AGAIN.

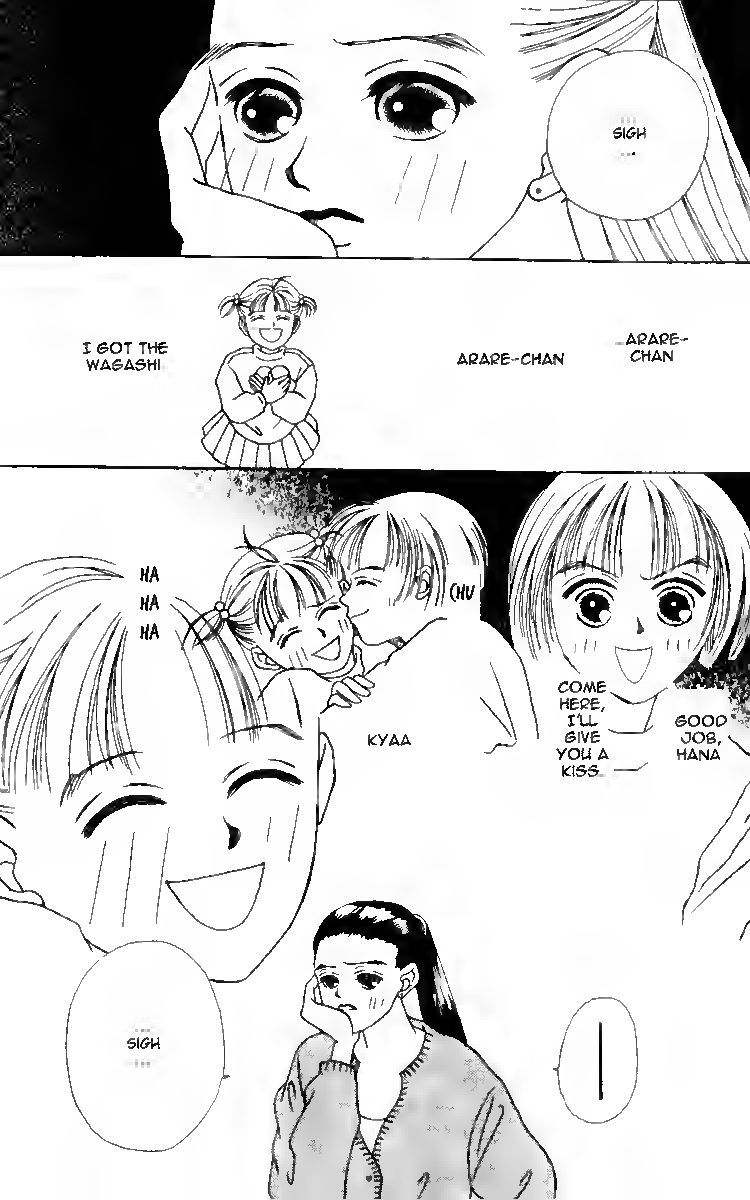

I KNEW I WENT TOO FAR BUT I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF.
.....
PAIN
WHY DOES MY CHEEK KEEP HURTING?

IS IT A PUNISHMENT FOR SAYING CRUEL THINGS?
HANA.
HIYA.
.....
COME ON ARE YOU STILL MAD AT ME?
ABOUT THE BUTTONS OR ABOUT THE PHONE CALL?
GO EASY ON ME, OKAY?

I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS AND YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, ALRIGHT?
KISSY-KISSY
ARARE!
WHAT? YOU USED TO LIKE IT.
S-
STOP THAT. IT'S DISGUSTING!
HUH?!

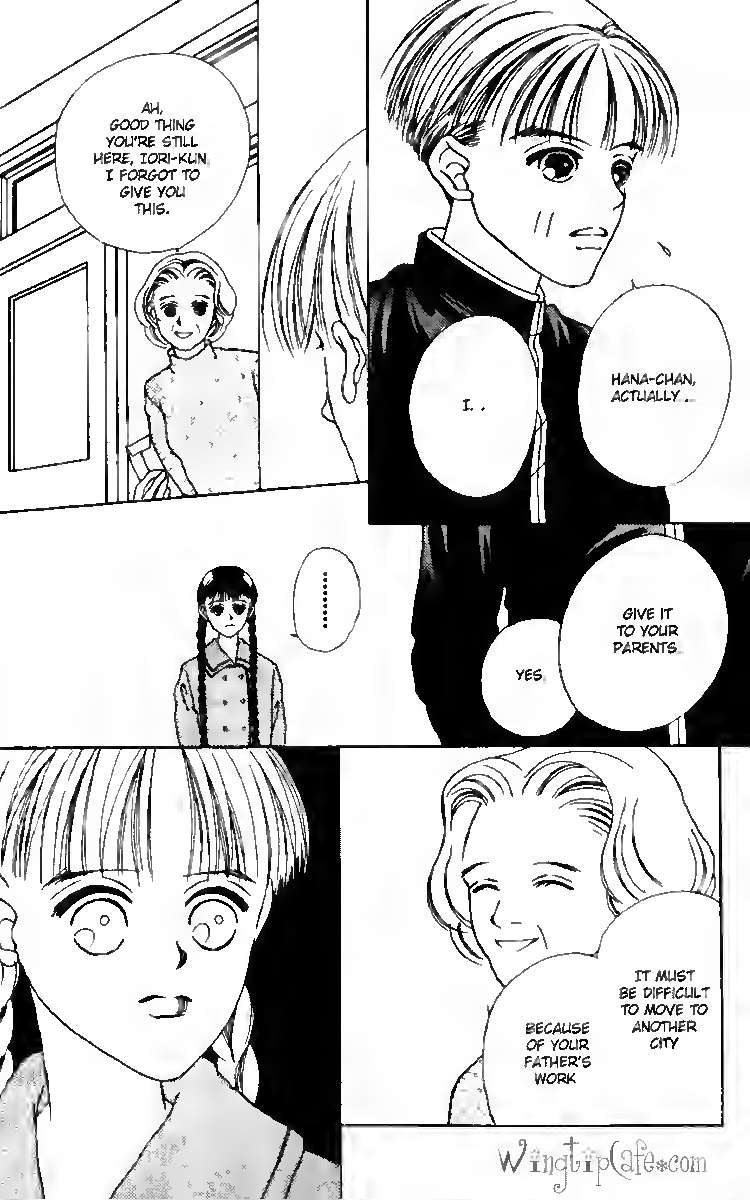
I'M AN ADULT NOW.
YOU KEEP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD.
IT'S UNCOMPORTABLE WHEN YOU COME TOO CLOSE TO ME.
WHA-
WHAT?!
THIS BRAT!
COME BACK, HANA!


SLIDE
USUALLY IT'S HER WHO CRAWLS BACK AND APOLOGIZES.
THAT BRAT!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D GO MAKE UP WITH HER?
THIS IS THE TIME WHEN "THANK YOU" AND "SORRY" AREN'T EASY WORDS
WHAT KIND OF SISTER ARE YOU?!
I USED TO GET HER TO STEAL THE WAGASHI WITH JUST A KISS
HMPH! SHE USED TO BE MORE OBEDIENT


SIGH
I GOT THE WAGASHI
ARARE-CHAN
ARARE-CHAN
HA HA HA
CHU
KYAA
COME HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS
GOOD JOB, HANA
SIGH
I

MY LITTLE SISTER IS SO NOT CUTE
YEAH. MY LITTLE SISTER IS SO NOT CUTE
.....
Why does it always come back to me?
SORRY, HANA

YOU VISIT THE TEACHER A LOT LATELY
I'M DONE. LET'S GO HOME
OKAY.
YEAH
BUT THE ENTRANCE EXAM IS COMING SOON. I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL
LET'S GO TO EXPOWORLD AFTER THE EXAM
WE'LL RIDE THE DAIDARASAURUS THAT YOU LIKE, TOO.
.....


AH, GOOD THING YOU'RE STILL HERE, IORI-KUN. I FORGOT TO GIVE YOU THIS.
I. .
HANA-CHAN, ACTUALLY ..
.....
YES.
GIVE IT TO YOUR PARENTS.
BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER'S WORK
IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO MOVE TO ANOTHER CITY

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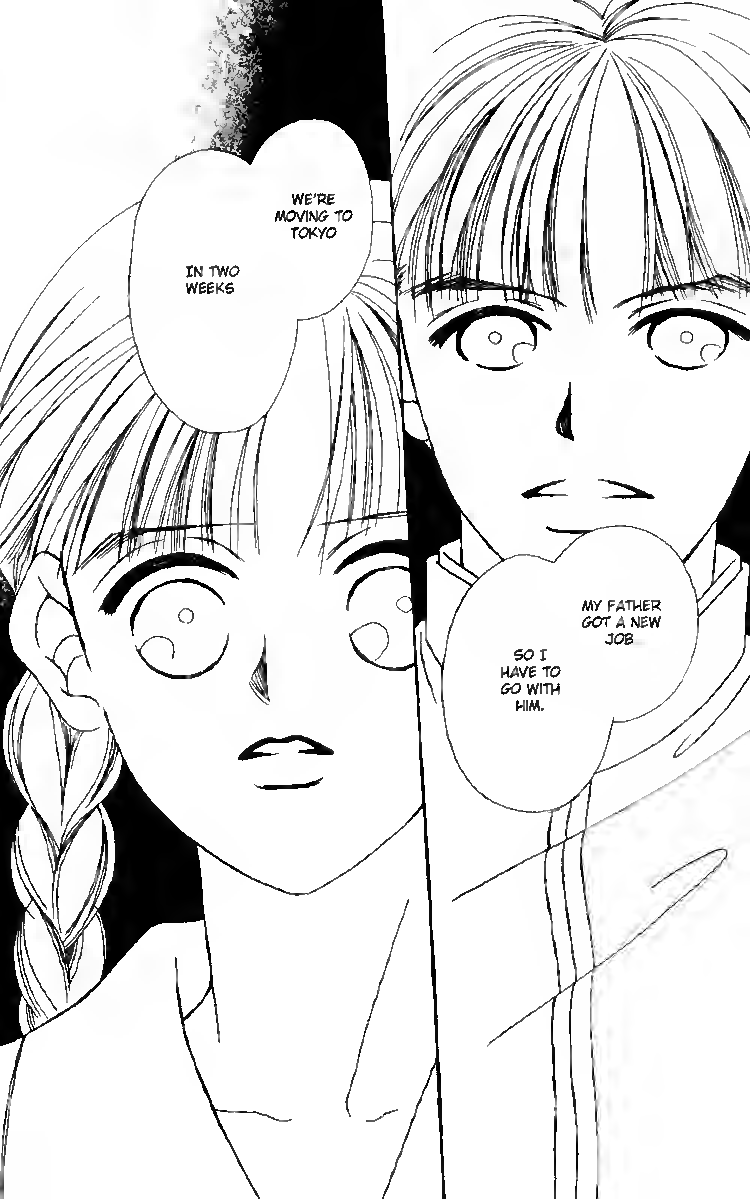
.....
YOU TWO SHOULD HURRY HOME
.....
YOU'RE...
MOVING...?


WE'RE MOVING TO TOKYO
IN TWO WEEKS
MY FATHER GOT A NEW JOB
SO I HAVE TO GO WITH HIM.

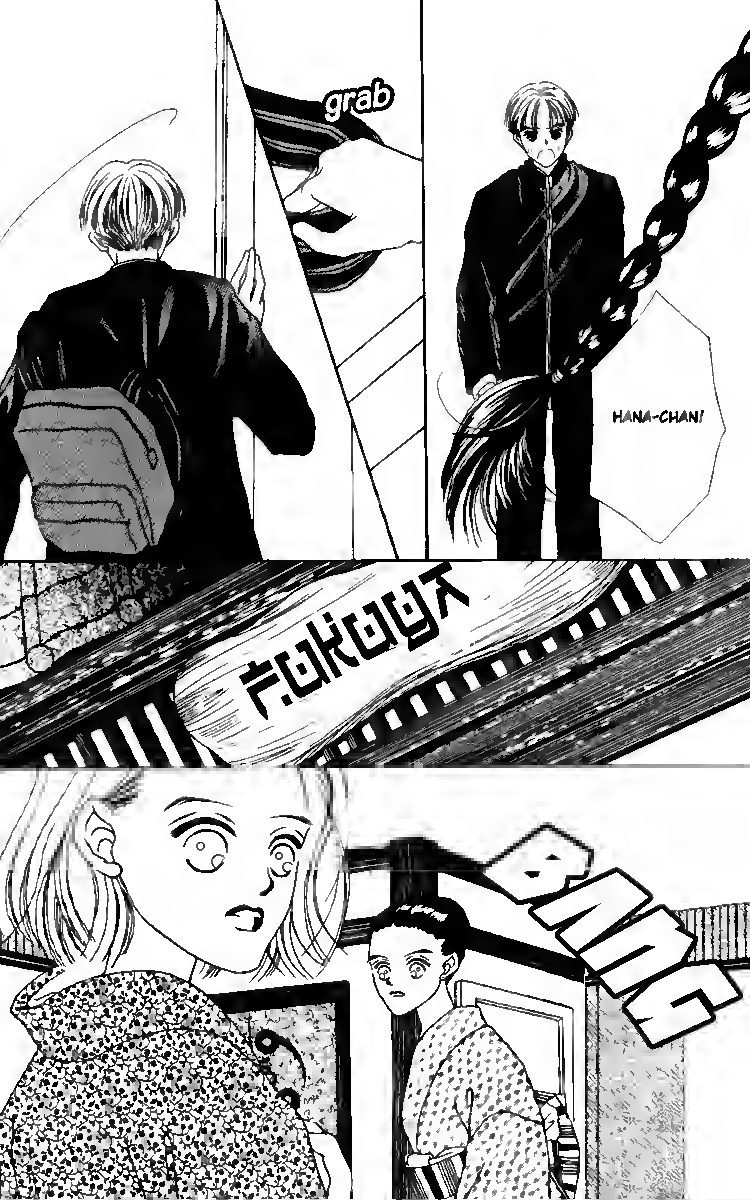
!
NO
WHY DIDN'T I KNOW ABOUT THIS?
I TRIED TO TELL YOU SEVERAL TIMES...
BUT I JUST COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO SAY IT

THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ELSE
I TRIED TO CONVINCE MY FATHER TO LET ME STAY HERE
BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN HE SAID "A FAMILY MUST STAY TOGETHER"
SO I'LL HAVE TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM FOR A HIGH SCHOOL IN TOKYO INSTEAD

LIES.
HANA-CHAN...
LIES!
YOU LIAR!
LIES!

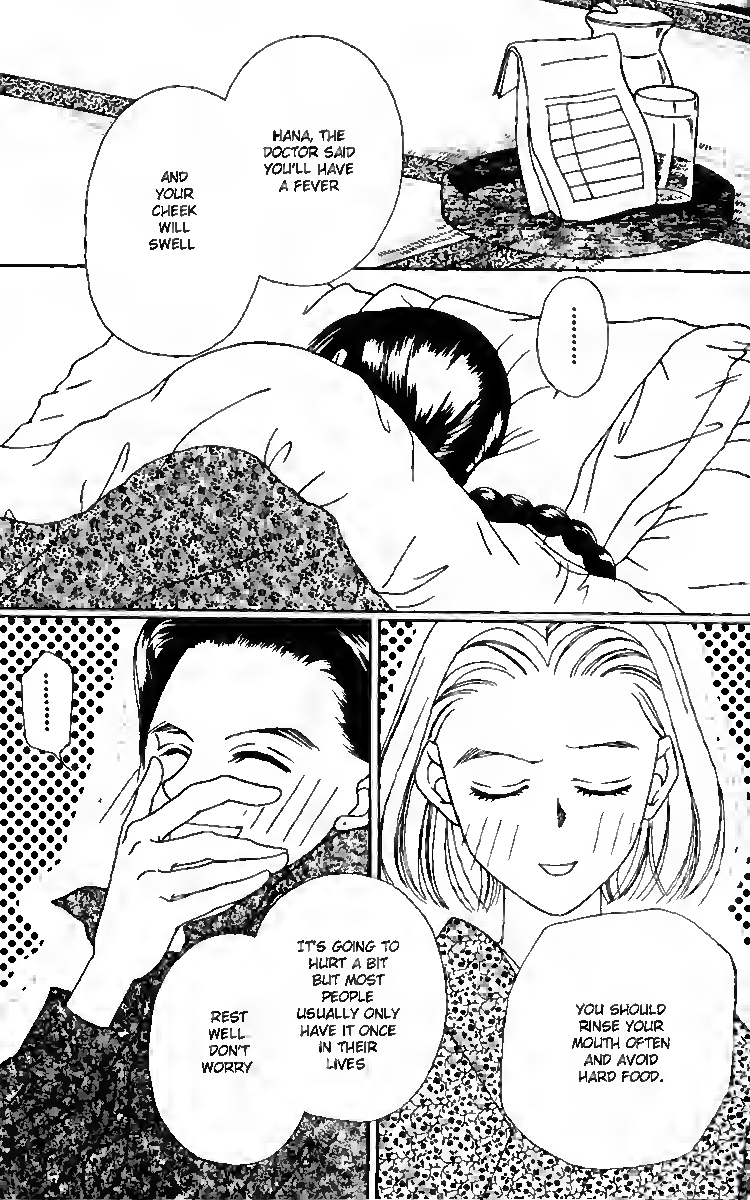
pain
pain
pain
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?
pain
DIDN'T WE PROMISE TO GO TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL?
IORI-KUN, YOU'RE...
pain

HANA-CHAN?!
I HATE YOU.
I HATE YOU THE MOST!

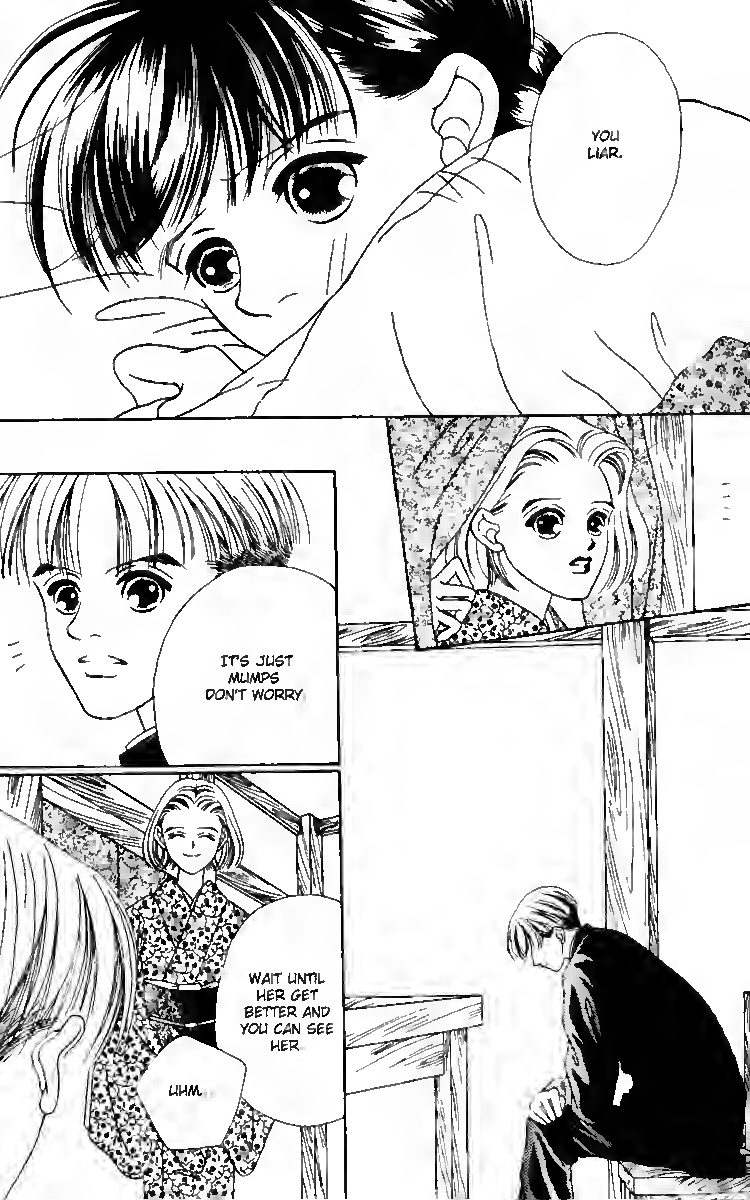

grab
HANA-CHAN!
TOKYO
BAND

!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HANA!
HANA!
SHE HAS A FEVER.
ARE YOU HURT?

I
ARARE, CALL A DOCTOR.
HANA, CAN YOU STAND? GO LIE DOWN.
I

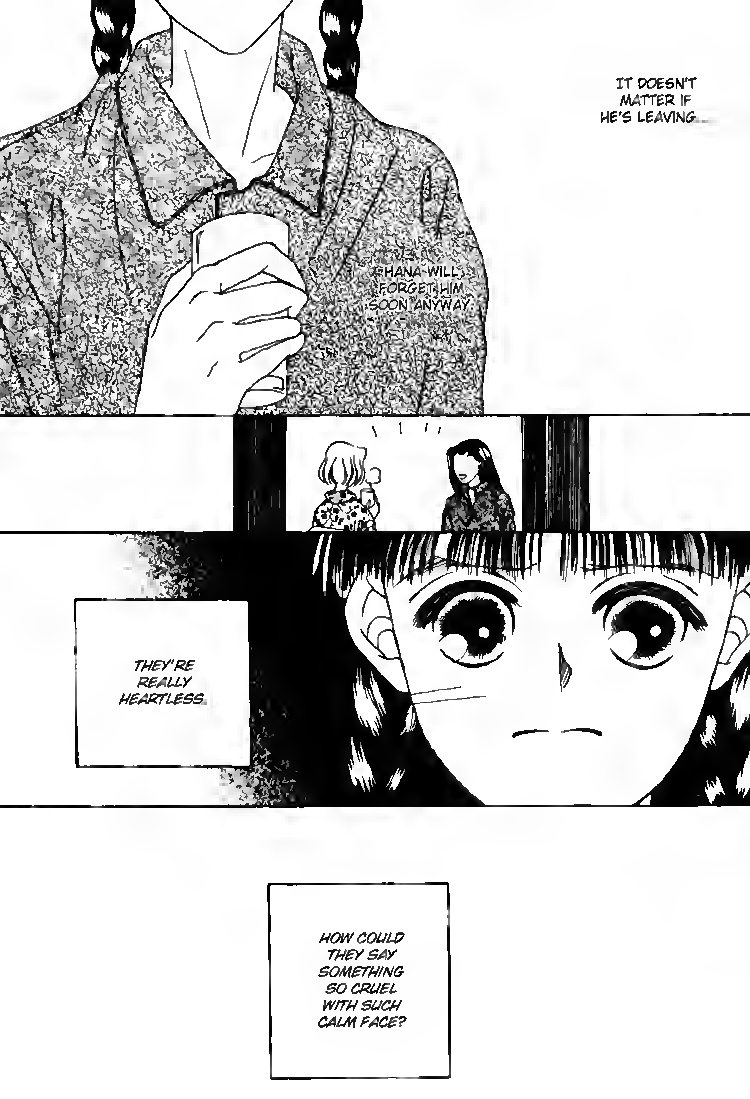

HANA, THE DOCTOR SAID YOU'LL HAVE A FEVER
AND YOUR CHEEK WILL SWELL
.....
.....
YOU SHOULD RINSE YOUR MOUTH OFTEN AND AVOID HARD FOOD.
IT'S GOING TO HURT A BIT BUT MOST PEOPLE USUALLY ONLY HAVE IT ONCE IN THEIR LIVES
REST WELL DON'T WORRY

* TN Note: Mumps vaccination is optional in Japan.
QC Note: Mumps is a contagious virus that swells your salivitory glands, most often occuring between ages 2-12.


YOU LIAR.
IT'S JUST MUMPS DON'T WORRY
WAIT UNTIL HER GET BETTER AND YOU CAN SEE HER
UHM.

WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
WE'LL HAVE HER STAY HOME FOR A WEEK
SO SHE DOESN'T PASS IT TO OTHER STUDENTS
.....
EHM... ACTUALLY I...
?
HE'S MOVING?
WHAT A SHAME

HE'S SUCH A NICE BOY
YES. MUCH NICER THAN THE RESERVED CALCULATING TYPE OR THE STUBBORN TYPE
HE'S GOING TO GROW UP TO BE A GOOD MAN
BUT THEY'RE STILL YOUNG. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S LEAVING.
HANA WILL FORGET HIM SOON ANYWAY
YOU'RE RIGHT
SAY, ONEE-CHAN, DO YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR IORI TO GROW TALLER THAN HANA?
SEE? YOU DON'T THINK SO EITHER



HOW COULD THEY SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL WITH SUCH CALM FACE?

Yōkan

One of the oldest wagashi. A thick jelled dessert made of anko (red bean paste) hardened with agar and additional sugar. It is usually sold in a block form and eaten in slices. (Source: Wikipedia)

Fukuyadou Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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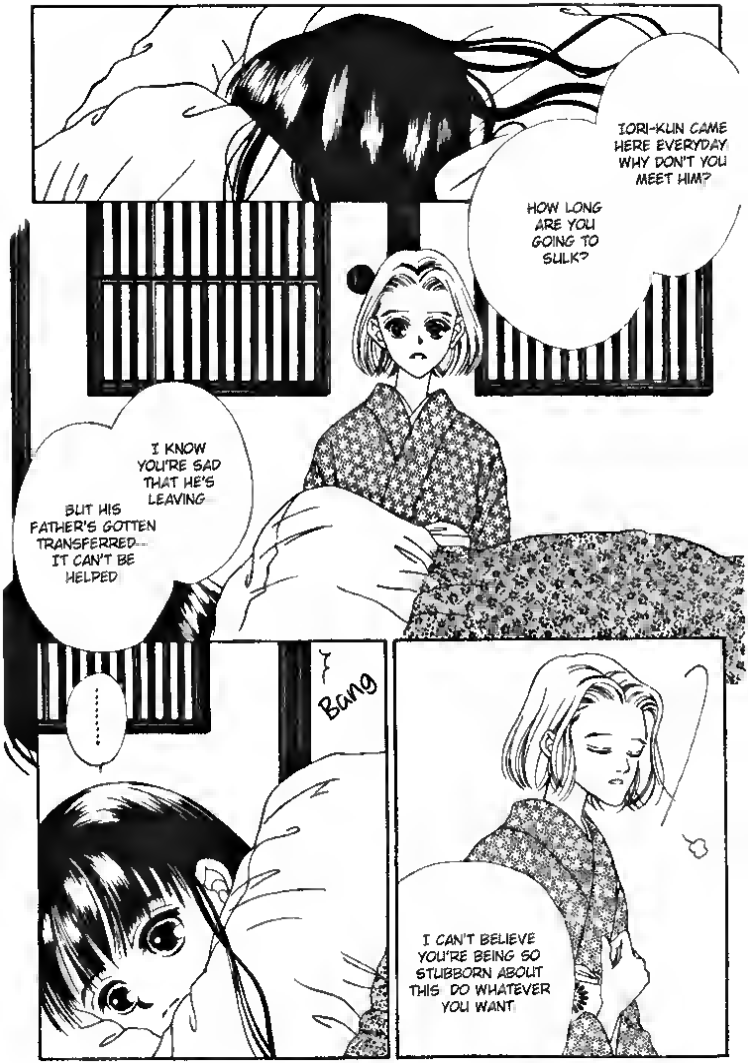
FukuyaDou Honpo

福堂本舗

The Rebellious Stage (2)

TODAY WE'LL LEARN ABOUT FIGURES OF SPEECH.
THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF THEM.
YOU SEE THEM A LOT IN CLASSIC LITERATURE.
PERSONIFICATION, METAPHOR...
.....
HANA


IORI-KUN CAME HERE EVERYDAY WHY DON'T YOU MEET HIM?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SULK?
I KNOW YOU'RE SAD THAT HE'S LEAVING
BUT HIS FATHER'S GOTTEN TRANSFERRED— IT CAN'T BE HELPED
Bang
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE BEING SO STUBBORN ABOUT THIS DO WHATEVER YOU WANT

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BUT HER PERSISTENCE ISN'T.
I SEE.
HOW IS HANA?
HER CHEEK IS MORE SWOLLEN.
THE FEVER'S GOING DOWN,
IORI-KUN CALLED AGAIN. I DON'T WANT TO LIE ANYMORE. HELP ME.
.....
HELLO, IORI-KUN.
THANK YOU FOR THE PUDDING.
HANA? SHE'S SLEEPING. SORRY.

MAY I GO THERE TOMORROW?
YES.
NO, THE THING IS... THIS IS MY LAST DAY AT SCHOOL.
I SEE.
IS THAT SO...
GOOD BYE
YOU WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME, HANA.

YOU CAN KEEP DENYING IT ALL YOU WANT, BUT IORI IS MOVING TO TOKYO ANYWAY.
ISN'T IT BETTER TO PART ON GOOD TERMS?
TOO MUCH STUBBORNNESS ISN'T GOOD.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
WHAT ABOUT ARARE-CHAN?
WEREN'T YOU LIKE THIS WHEN KENJI-SAN WENT TO OSAKA?
DON'T YOU DARE LIE TO ME.

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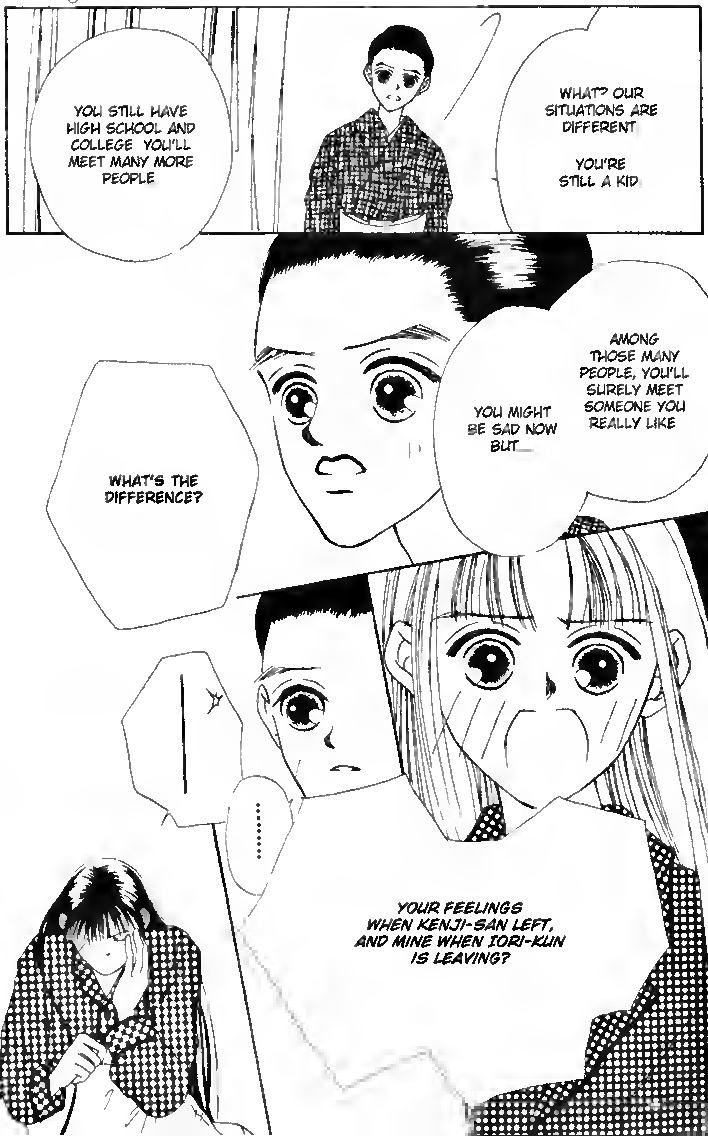
YOU STILL HAVE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE. YOU'LL MEET MANY MORE PEOPLE
WHAT? OUR SITUATIONS ARE DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE STILL A KID.
AMONG THOSE MANY PEOPLE, YOU'LL SURELY MEET SOMEONE YOU REALLY LIKE
YOU MIGHT BE SAD NOW BUT...
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
...
YOUR FEELINGS WHEN KENJI-SAN LEFT, AND MINE WHEN IORI-KUN IS LEAVING?

IT HURTS.
ARE YOU OKAY? DOES IT HURT THAT MUCH?
IT HURTS SO BADLY.
FORGOTTEN THAT IT HURTS TO EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
YOU AND ONEE-CHAN PROBABLY HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE

LEAVE ME ALONE...
.....
SLIDE
I'M AT THE END OF MY ROPE... NOW... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HER ANYMORE
HOW IS SHE?
I SEE
LEAVE HER BE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAMPER HER TOO MUCH

SLIDE
OH, IORI-KUN, WHY DON'T YOU COME IN?

WELL, ONE SECOND. LET ME GO CHECK ON HER.
EHM... HOW IS HANA?
YOU HAVE MOM'S APPROVAL; DON'T BE SO SCARED TO COME INSIDE.
OH, GOOD EVENING.
Bow
GOOD EVENING.
HAVE YOU FINISHED PACKING?
ALMOST. THANK YOU.
EHM...

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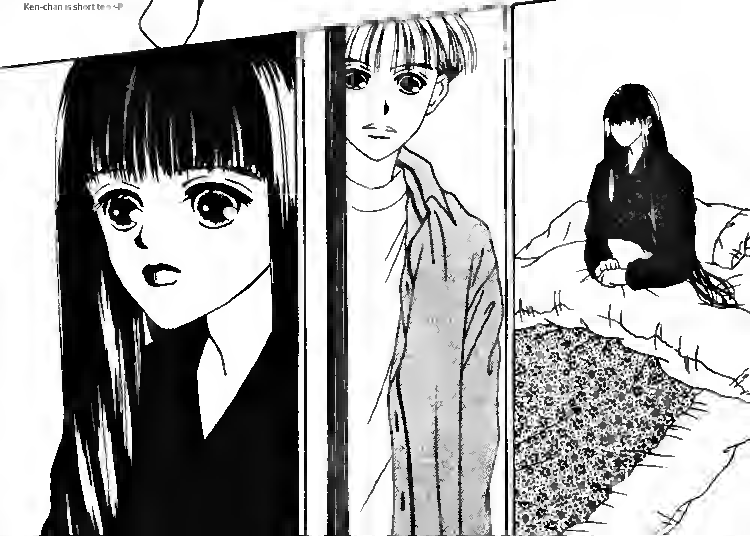
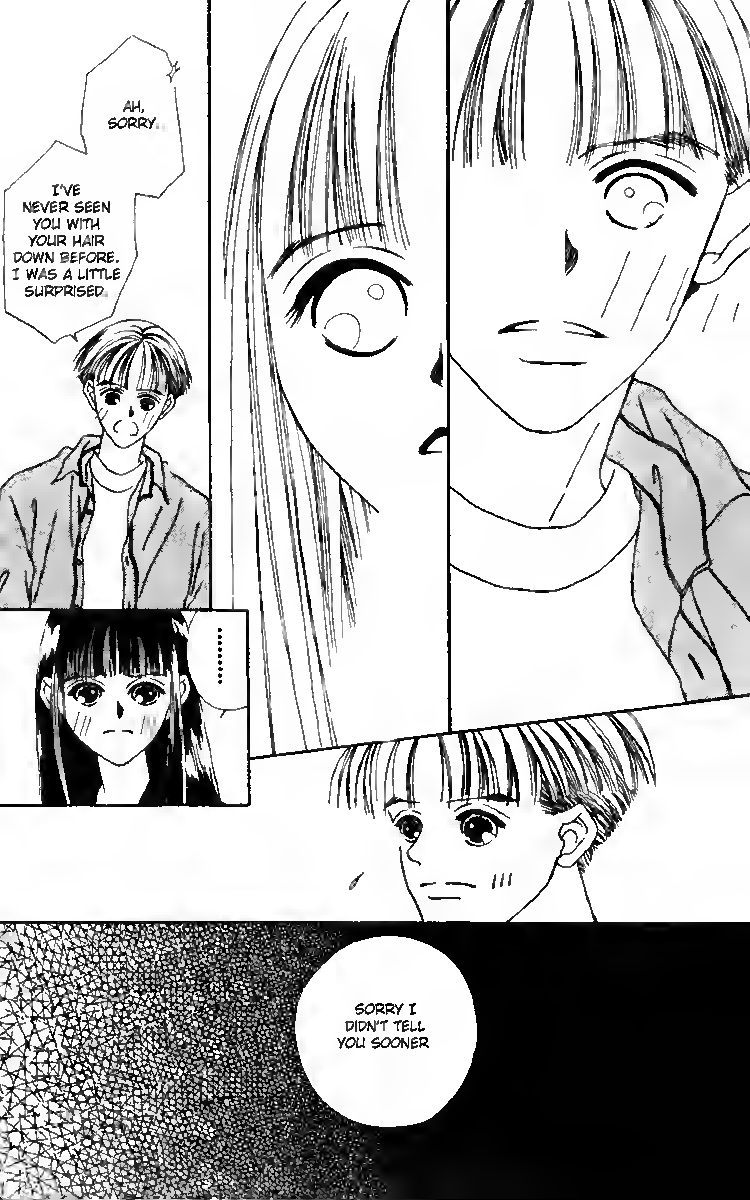
HAVE YOU HAD MUMPS BEFORE?
YES, WHEN I WAS IN SECOND GRADE
ARARE, TAKE HIM TO HANA'S ROOM
THEN YOU CAN SEE HER
MOM, BUT HANA IS STILL...
HANA WHAT? THIS IS MY HOUSE.
IS THERE ANY ROOM I CAN'T LET SOMEBODY IN?

NO,
OF COURSE NOT!
THIS WAY, IORI.
SORRY FOR INTRUDING
GOOD EVENING
HI.
JUST WALK DOWN THE HALL. IT'S THE DOOR ON THE RIGHT
OKAY
.....

*QC Note: Japan Men's 27 US Men's 8.5 US Wimens 10
http://www.18inguy.com/110n/shoes.html

**QC Note: actually the correlation between height and shoe size is loose and your feet reach full size before you reach full height, but I found this: In America: Avg adult male height is 5' 9¾" (69.75 in) Avg adult male shoe size is 10 1/2" Ken-chan is short ten-P

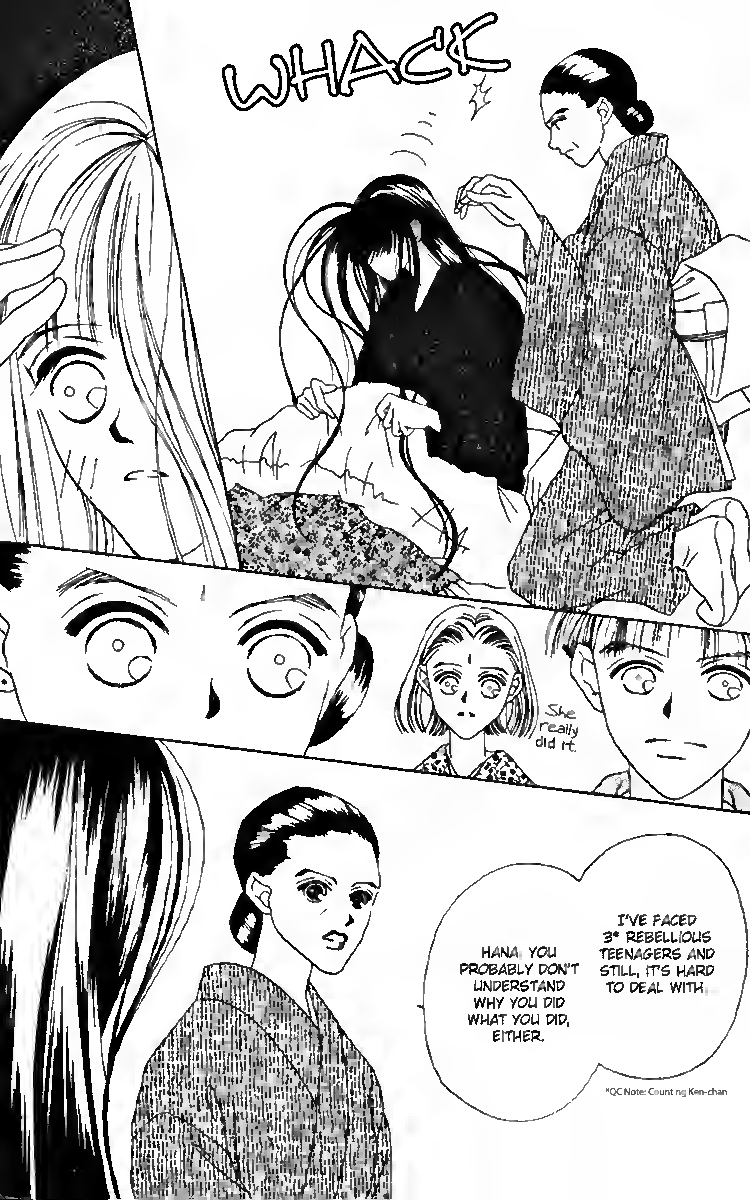


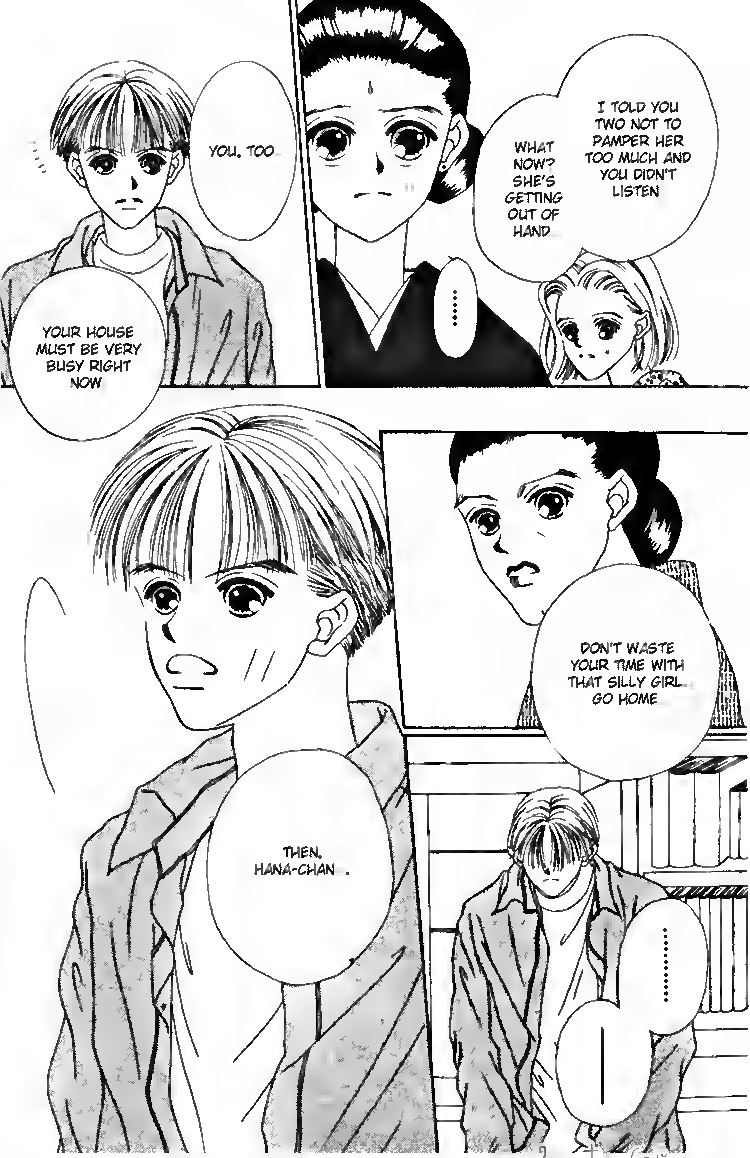

AH, SORRY.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WITH YOUR HAIR DOWN BEFORE. I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED.
.....
SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER

I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE BY YOUR SIDE ANYMORE
WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW
I'LL WRITE YOU

HEY, HANA SAY SOMETHING WISH HIM LUCK OR SOMETHING.
IS THAT ALL?
LIAR. YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE EVERYTHING ALRIGHT IF YOU SAY YOU'RE SORRY?
HANA!
ARARE, YOU'RE THE WORST.
YOU KNOW I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM AND YET YOU STILL BROUGHT HIM HERE.

I CAN'T STOP
HATE!
STOP PRETENDING YOU CARE!
ONEE-CHAN TOO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.
SOMEONE WHO BETS ON OTHER PEOPLE'S MISERY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
STOP ME!
GO AWAY!
I HATE EVERYONE!
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF.
SOMEBODY!


WHACK
She really did it.
HANA, YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DID WHAT YOU DID, EITHER.
I'VE FACED 3* REBELLIOUS TEENAGERS AND STILL, IT'S HARD TO DEAL WITH...
*QC Note: Count ng Ken-chan


YOU, TOO
YOUR HOUSE MUST BE VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW
I TOLD YOU TWO NOT TO PAMPER HER TOO MUCH AND YOU DIDN'T LISTEN
WHAT NOW? SHE'S GETTING OUT OF HAND
.....
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH THAT SILLY GIRL... GO HOME
THEN, HANA-CHAN .
.....
.....

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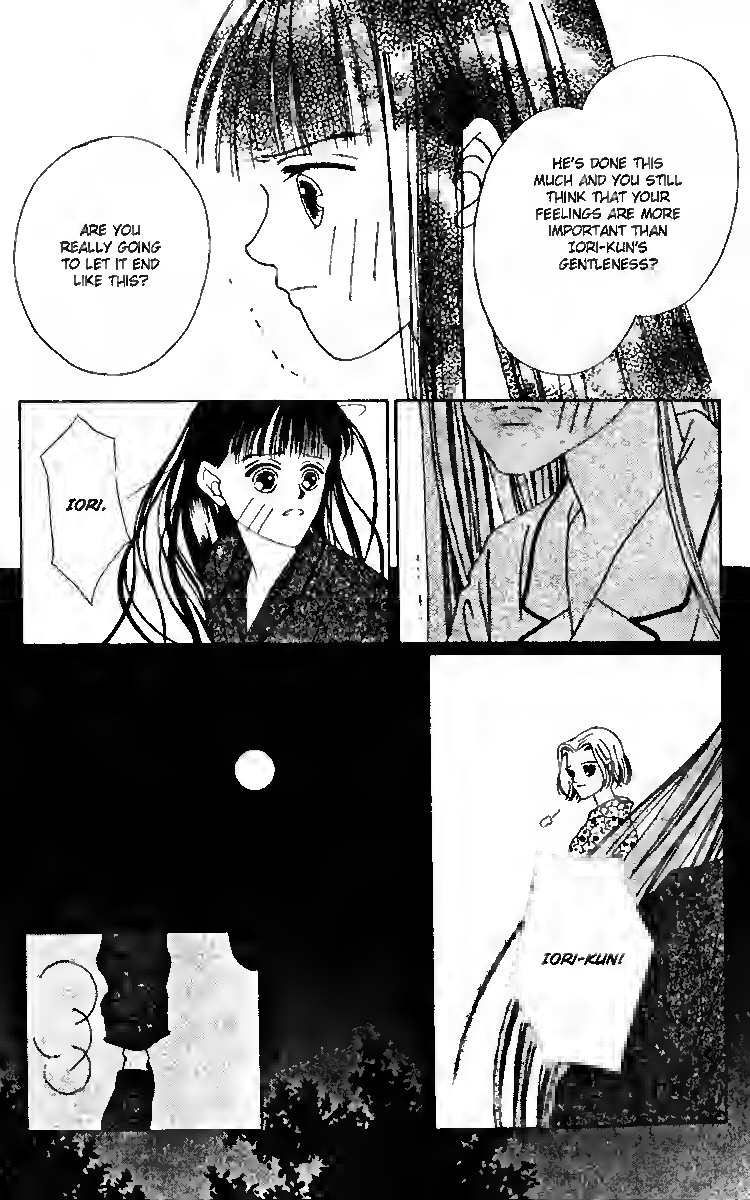
GOODBYE
WHAT A GOOD-HEARTED BOY
HE HAS TO LEAVE THE TOWN THAT HE'S LIVED ALL THIS LIFE
THERE MUST BE SO MANY THINGS THAT HE WANTS TO DO
SO MANY FRIENDS TO SAY GOODBYE TO
YET HE CAME HERE EVERY DAY TO SEE YOU.

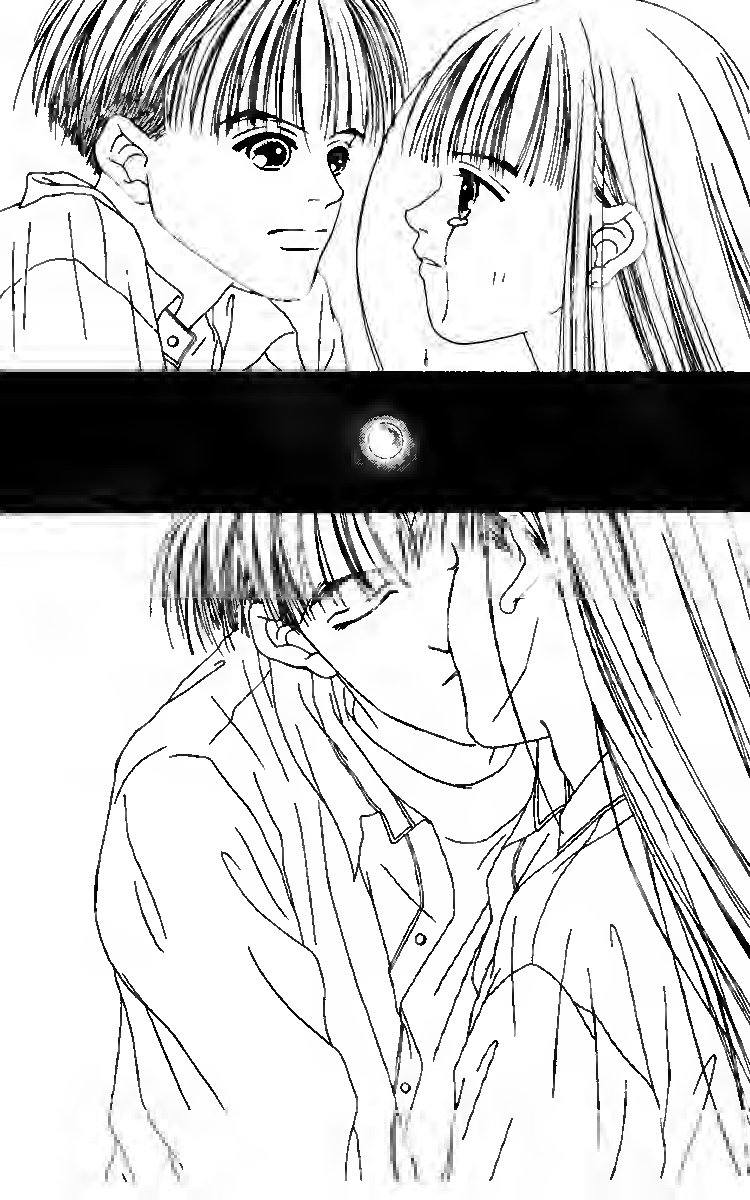

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO LET IT END LIKE THIS?
HE'S DONE THIS MUCH AND YOU STILL THINK THAT YOUR FEELINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN IORI-KUN'S GENTLENESS?
IORI.
IORI-KUN!

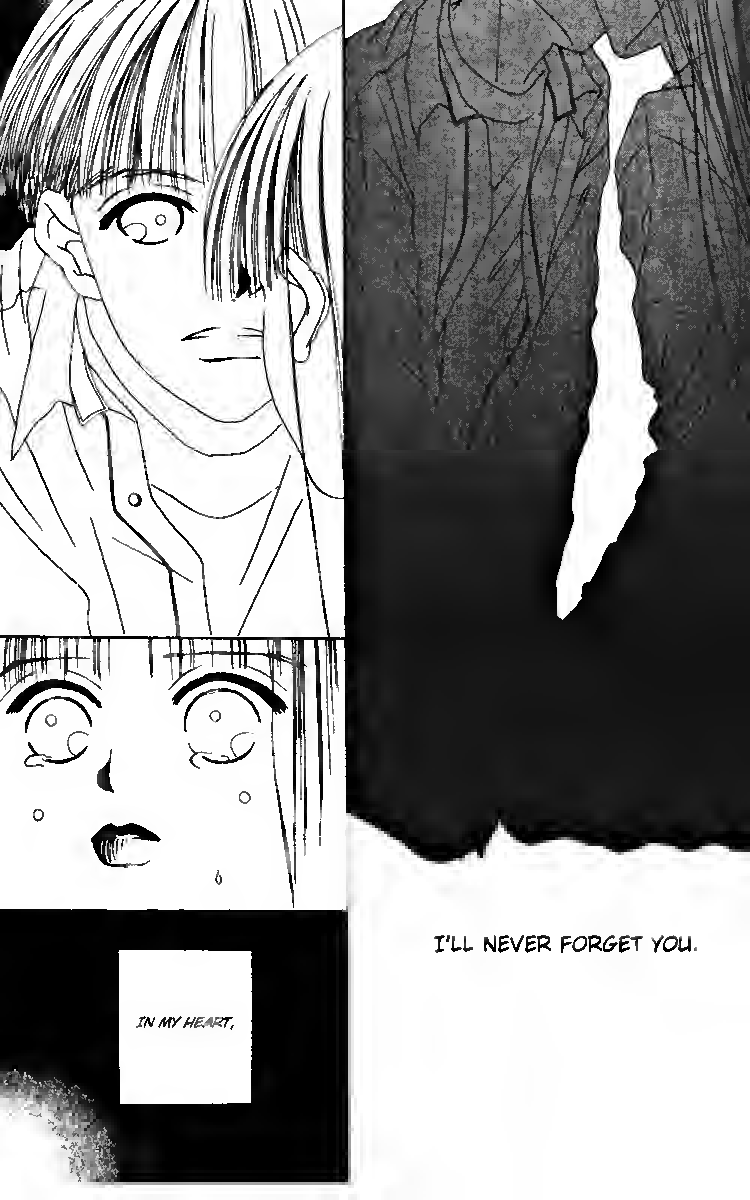
IORI-KUN!
HANA-CHAN
DON'T..

DON'T...
PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME.
THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.
ALL THE STRENGTH HAS LEFT MY BODY SO SUDDENLY.
!
!
HANA-CHAN.

YEAH.
YOUR CHEEK IS STILL HOT
YEAH...
BUT EVEN IF I GO, YOU WON'T BE THERE ANYMORE
I SEE
THE DOCTOR SAID I CAN GO TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY
I'M SORRY I SAID SO MANY MEAN THINGS TO YOU

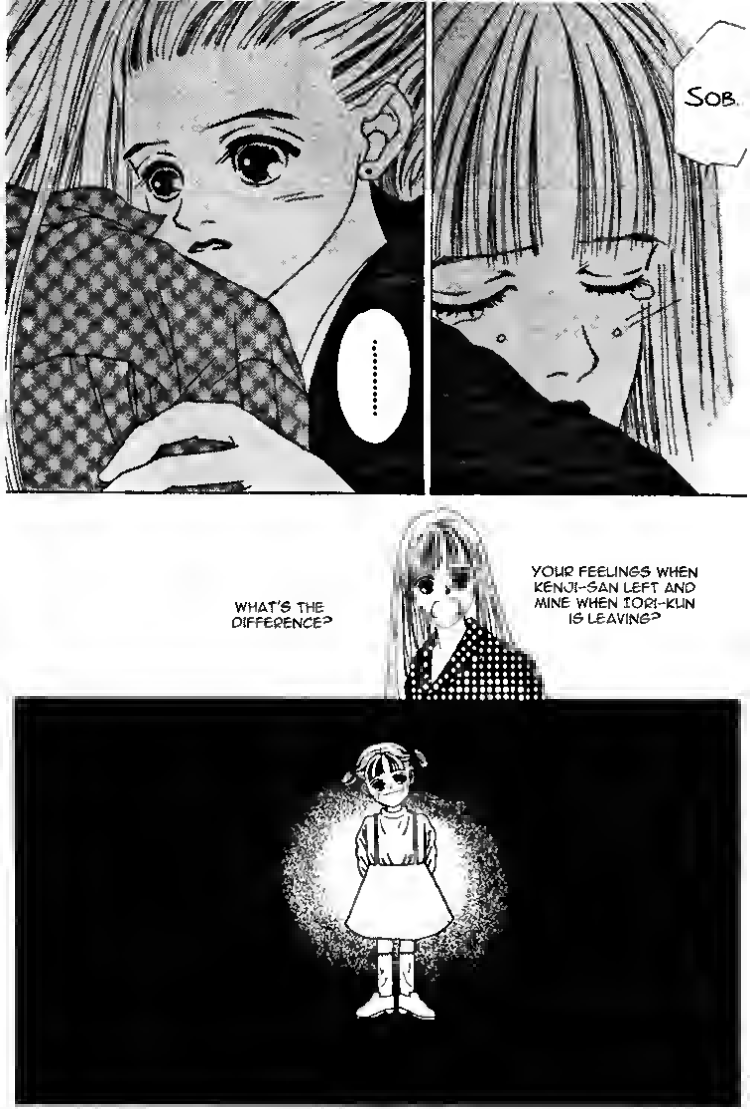
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, HANA.
NEVER EVER.
I'D BE WITH YOU ALWAYS
I WAS IN THE POSITION TO MAKE DECISIONS OF MY LIFE,
I'D CHOOSE TO REMAIN HERE AND NEVER LEAVE
IT'S OKAY...
IF RIGHT NOW




I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU.
IN MY HEART,

A SHARP, DEEP PANG SPRANG FORTH.
slide slide

HANA
ARARE-CHAN.
tickity
OUCH.
DID SHE GROW TALLER AGAIN?
I'M SORRY THAT I SAID THOSE THINGS TO YOU.
SHE SEEMS EMOTIONALLY STABLE NOW...
DID SHE GET KISSED BY IORI?
BUT I'M RELIEVED THINGS TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT.



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YOU'RE RIGHT, HANA
YOU'VE GROWN UP NOW.
GOODBYE.
IORI

THAT WAS
THE LAST TIME I SAW IORI AS A CHILD.

Chokuman Wingsoft
http://japanauthors.freeservers.com

Fukuyadon Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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Proof-read by : Xaverick
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Quality checked by : Killuminati

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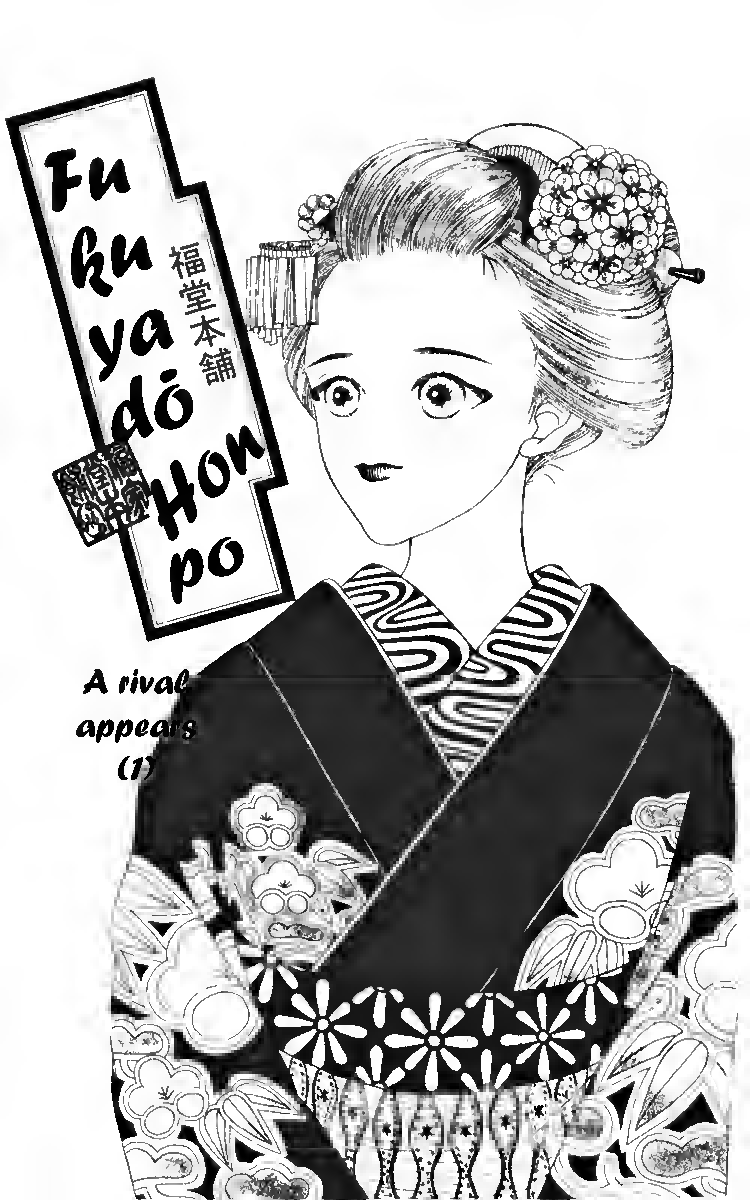
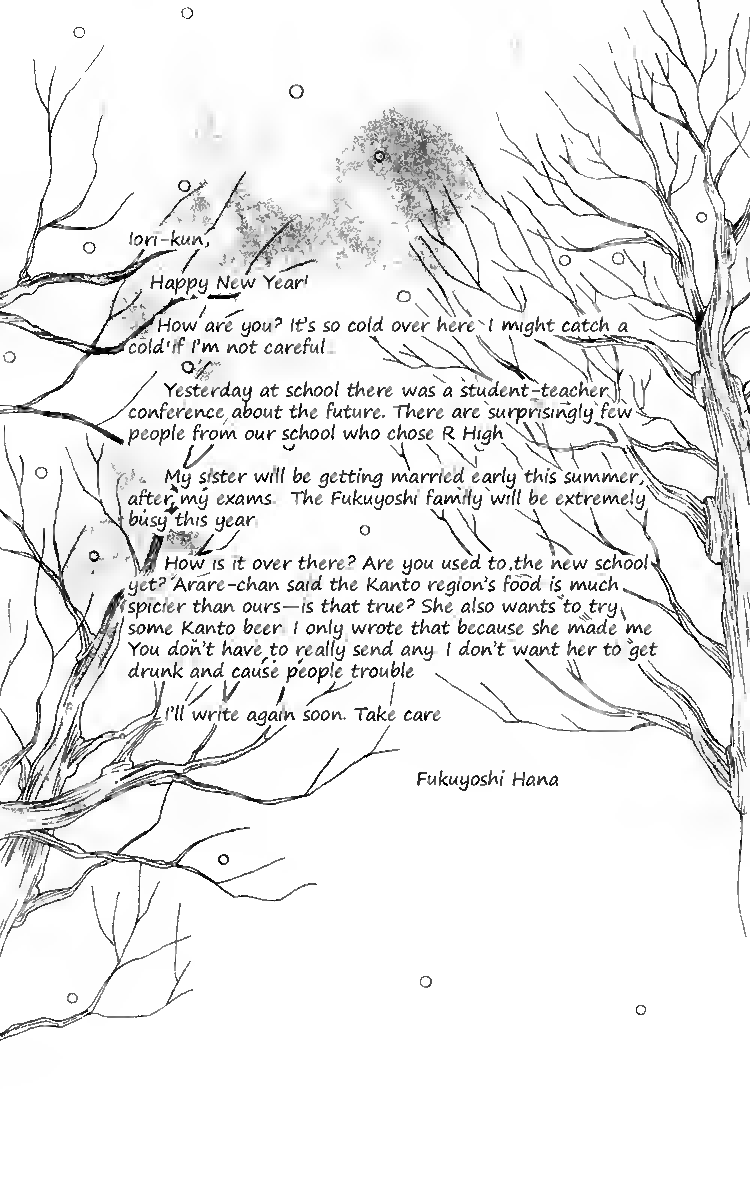

Fu
ku
ya
dō
Hon
po
福堂本舗
A rival
appears
(1)



Iori-kun,

Happy New Year!

How are you? It's so cold over here. I might catch a cold if I'm not careful.

Yesterday at school there was a student-teacher conference about the future. There are surprisingly few people from our school who chose R High.

My sister will be getting married early this summer, after my exams. The Fukuyoshi family will be extremely busy this year.

How is it over there? Are you used to the new school yet? Arare-chan said the Kanto region's food is much spicier than ours—is that true? She also wants to try some Kanto beer. I only wrote that because she made me. You don't have to really send any. I don't want her to get drunk and cause people trouble.

I'll write again soon. Take care.

Fukuyoshi Hana

Hana-chan,

How are you?

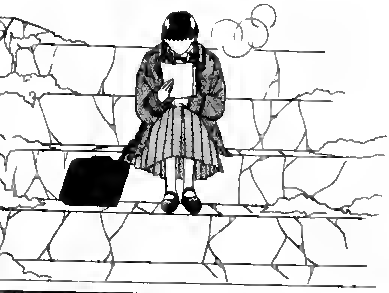
Tokyo isn't as chilly as Kyoto but I've already caught a cold. I had to stay home and recover. My mom made a big fuss and kept me laying down all day long. It was so boring. I had to miss school for three days.

Have I told you that my mom said she has missed Kyoto every single day? She even said she missed Fukuya's wagashi.

How are your studies for the entrance exam going? I haven't gotten much done since I just transferred. But I guess everything is going to be alright soon.

I'll write more next time. Please give my regards to your family.

Iori Tomo



EXCUSE ME.
GOSH, I'VE GOTTA GO BACK AND HELP OUT OR ONEE-CHAN WILL GIVE ME AN EARFUL.
YOU DROPPED SOMETHING.
Fukuyoshi Hana
IS THIS YOUR LETTER? FUKUYOSHI HA...

AH, SORRY.
THANK YOU.
FUKUYOSHI, AS IN FUKUYA'S FUKUYOSHI?
EH...? YES.
DO YOU KNOW OUR SHOP?
THAT WAS CLOSE. I ALMOST LOST IORI-KUN'S LETTER.
OF COURSE. IT'S FAMOUS. MANY OF OUR CUSTOMERS HAVE OFTEN BOUGHT US YOUR WAGASHI AS GIFTS
YOU MUST BE A DAUGHTER OF FUKUYA'S
ARE YOU PREPARING FOR AN ENTRANCE EXAM?

YES.
HOW WONDERFUL. I HAD TO START WORKING RIGHT AFTER JUNIOR HIGH
ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE LIKE A DREAM TO ME.
EH?! BUT I REALLY HATE STUDYING FOR EXAMS
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT.
IF I HAD A CHANCE, I'D LOVE TO TAKE AN EXAM TOO.
THEN YOU CAN GO IN MY PLACE.
EH?! BUT I'M... REALLY DUMB AT THIS STUFF.
SOMEHOW THIS MAIKO-SAN* IS...
(*maiko = apprentice geisha)

SUDDENLY WALKED INTO OUR LIFE.
MY NAME IS SHIJAKU
ARE YOU GOING TO COME THIS WAY TOMORROW? MAY I COME TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU?
SURE SEE YOU TOMORROW.
WHO DOES SHE RESEMBLE?
THIS WOMAN

EH? THEN THAT FRIEND OF YOURS HAD TO MOVE AWAY?
YES, JUST LAST FALL
THEN YOU MUST BE VERY LONELY
SOMETIMES BUT I HAVE MY SISTERS
SISTERS?
HUH?
THEY AREN'T SO NICE THOSE TWO LOVE TO MAKE BETS ON MY MISERY.
YEAH, MY OLDER SISTERS.
ARARE-CHAN IS A CHEERFUL GIRL, BUT SHE LOVES TO PARTY SO THE ADULTS OFTEN DISAPPROVE OF HER. ONEE-CHAN IS A MODEL STUDENT.
PEOPLE OFTEN COMPARE THEM WITH EACH OTHER BUT I THINK THEY BOTH HAVE THEIR OWN BAD TRAITS.

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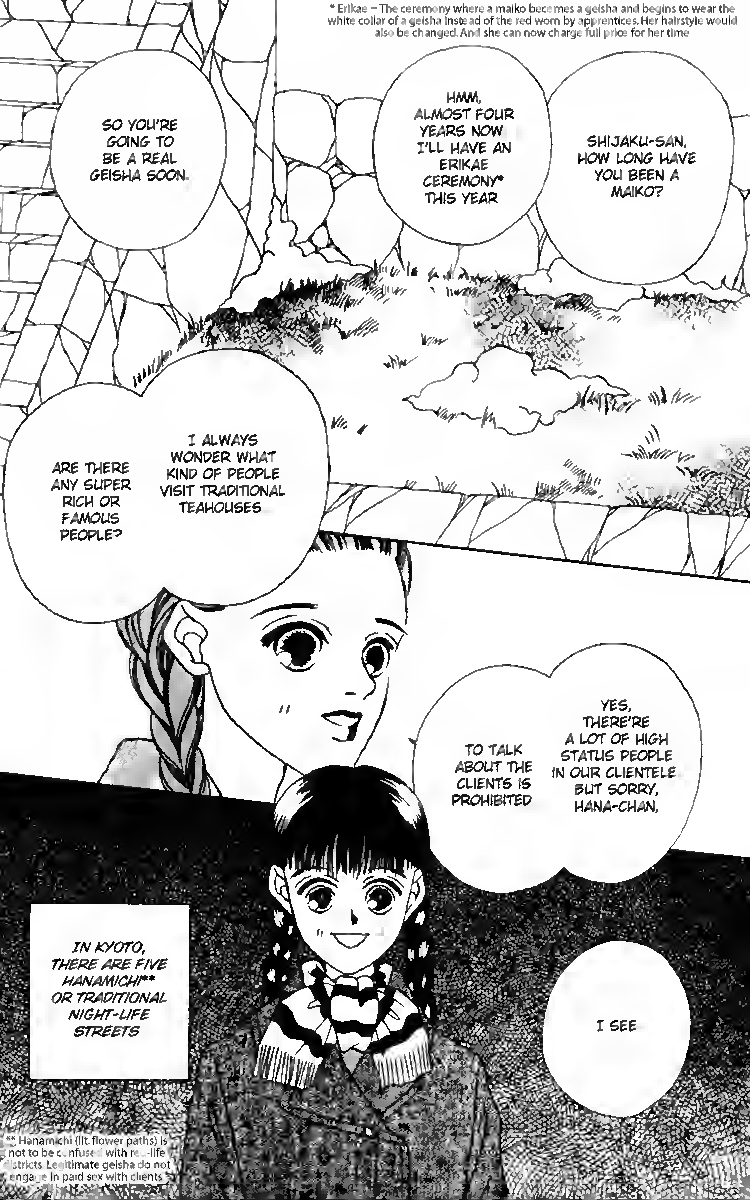
Congrat-ulations
USUALLY, THE NORMAL RESPONSE
WOULD BE LIKE THIS
.....
EH?
BUT ONEE-CHAN IS GETTING MARRIED VERY SOON
OH, FORGET IT.
WELL, SHIJAKU-SAN, I THINK YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE I KNOW
EH? WHO?
I SPENT MY WHOLE DAY YESTERDAY TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT, BUT I COULDN'T.
IT MUST BE SOMEONE I KNOW VERY WELL, BUT I CAN'T DETERMINE WHO IT IS.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT TO ME. I WONDER WHO IT IS.
THIS FEELING...

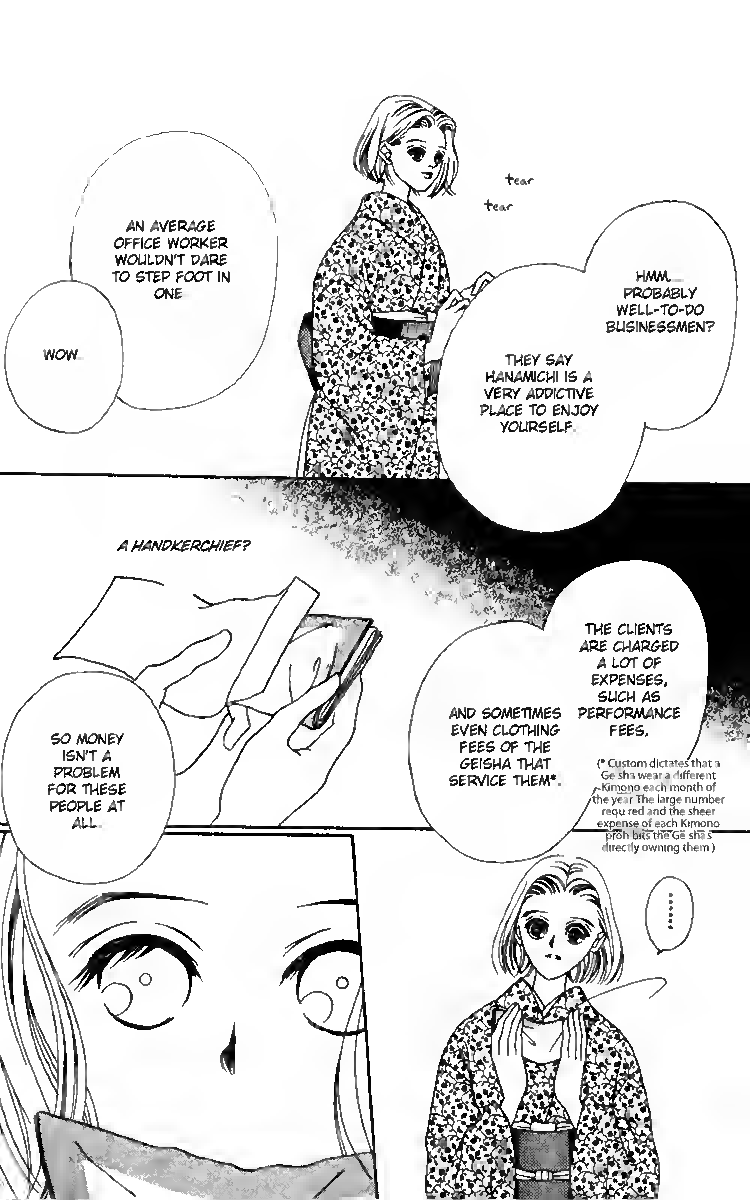
COULD YOU GIVE THIS TO HINA-SAN?
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, HANA-CHAN
THIS
I SEE
WHAT A COINCIDENCE
I'LL MAKE SURE SHE RECEIVES IT.
EH? YOU KNOW ONEE-CHAN'S NAME?
DO YOU KNOW HER?


* Erikae – The ceremony where a maiko becomes a geisha and begins to wear the white collar of a geisha instead of the red worn by apprentices. Her hairstyle would also be changed. And she can now charge full price for her time
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE A REAL GEISHA SOON.
HMM, ALMOST FOUR YEARS NOW I'LL HAVE AN ERIKAE CEREMONY* THIS YEAR
SHIJAKU-SAN, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MAIKO?
ARE THERE ANY SUPER RICH OR FAMOUS PEOPLE?
I ALWAYS WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE VISIT TRADITIONAL TEAHOUSES
YES, THERE'RE A LOT OF HIGH STATUS PEOPLE IN OUR CLIENTELE BUT SORRY, HANA-CHAN,
TO TALK ABOUT THE CLIENTS IS PROHIBITED
I SEE
IN KYOTO, THERE ARE FIVE HANAMICHI** OR TRADITIONAL NIGHT-LIFE STREETS
** Hanamichi (lit. flower paths) is not to be confused with red-light districts. Legitimate geisha do not engage in paid sex with clients.

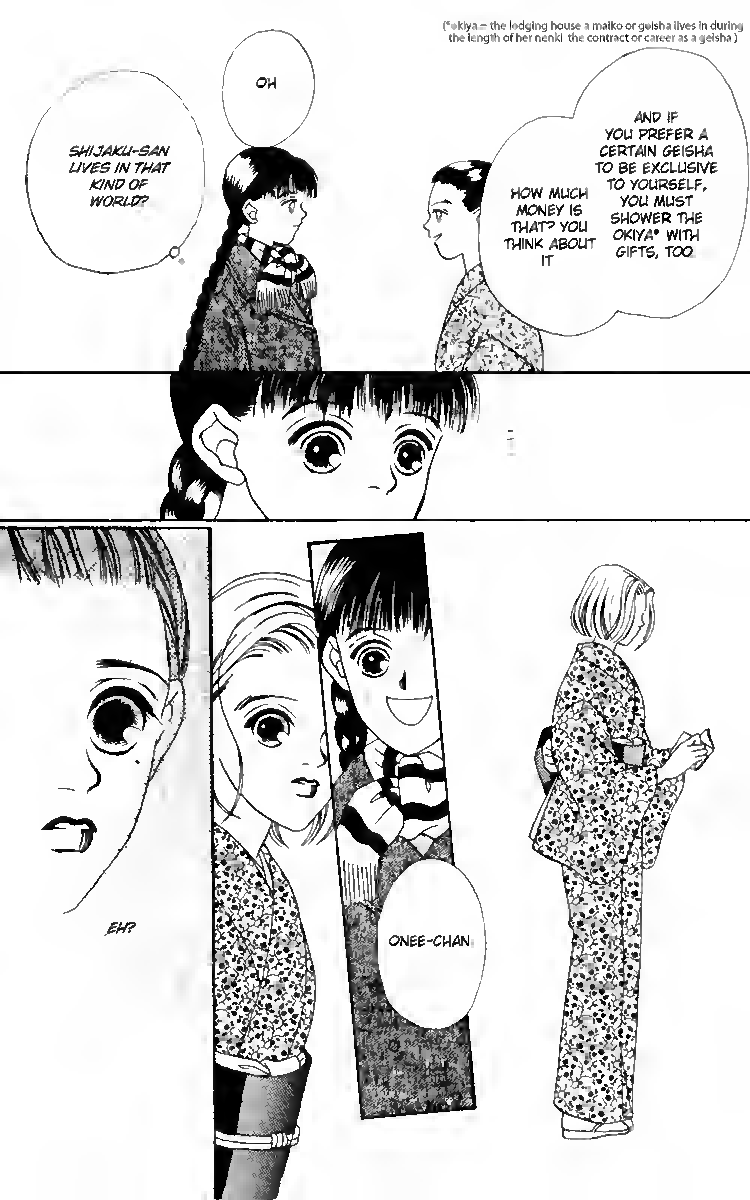
THESE STREETS ARE GION-HIGASHI, GION-KOBU, PONTOCHOU, KAMISHINKEN, AND MIYAGAWACHOU
THE TEAHOUSES ON THE STREETS ARE AN ELEGANT HIGH CULTURED WORLD EXCLUSIVELY TO THE RICH AND FAMOUS
WHEN THE NIGHT CLOSES IN,
DIMLY-LIT LANTERNS SHINE ALLURINGLY IN FRONT OF TEAHOUSES IT'S A WORLD OF PLEASURES THAT ONLY BELONGS TO A CERTAIN GROUP OF PEOPLE.
ONE MAY THINK HE CAN BUY ANY DIVINE GOURMET OR PRETTY KIMONO-CLOTHED GIRL AS LONG AS HE HAS THE MONEY. HOWEVER, THESE PLACES WON'T OPEN THEIR DOORS TO JUST ANYBODY.

A PLAY-FIRST-PAY-LATER SYSTEM IS THE USUAL PRACTICE. SOME TEAHOUSE OWNERS WILL COVER THE EXPENSES FOR FOODS AND SERVICES FIRST
AND BILL THE INVOICES LATER. SO THE CLIENTS MUST HAVE SOME CREDITABILITY
IT'S AN ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT THAT CONSIDERS THEIR CLIENTS ABOVE THEIR WEALTH
THE PEOPLE OF KYOTO TEND TO TREAT PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY DEPENDING ON WHO YOU ARE.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE QUALIFIED, YOU MAY COME AND TEST IT YOURSELF.
FUKUGI
I'M HOME.

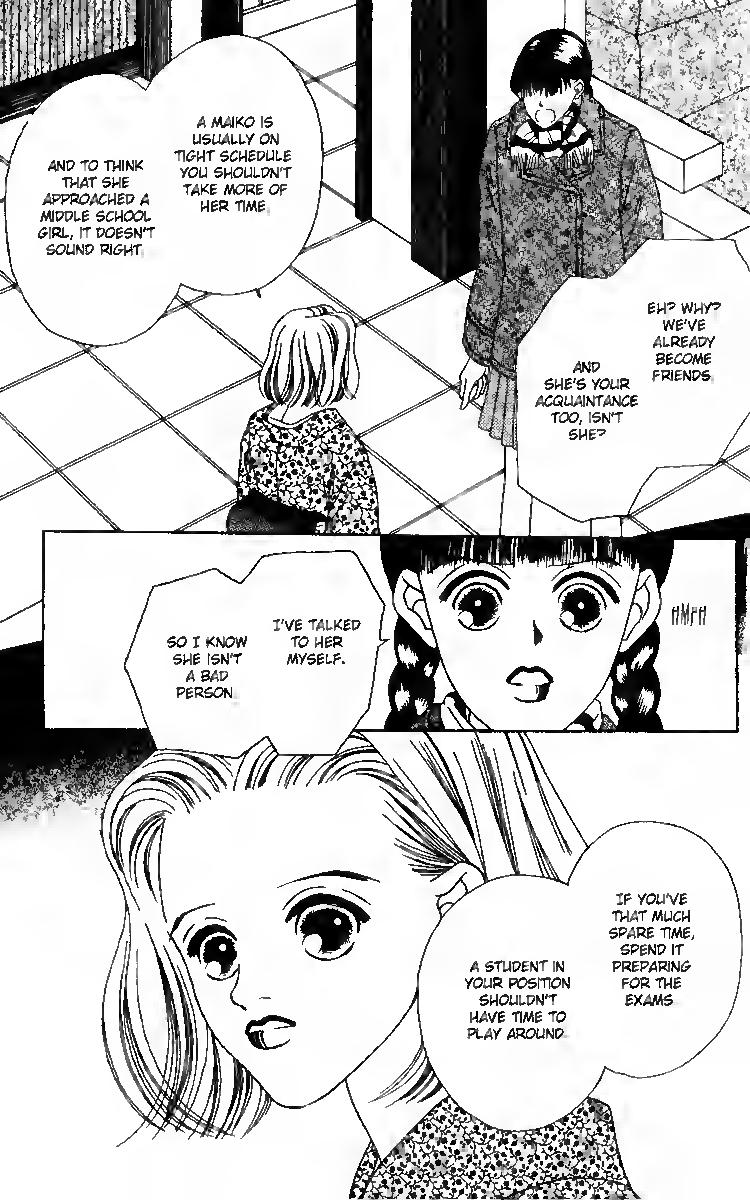
SORRY, ONEE-CHAN
DO YOU KNOW A PERSON NAME SHIJAKU? SHE'S MY FRIEND NOW.
YOU'RE LATE, HANA. WHAT HELD YOU UP?
IT'S ALREADY DARK.
WHO?
YOU KNOW, THE MAIKO-SAN NAMED SHIJAKU. SHE TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU, TOO.
A MAIKO-SAN? DO I KNOW A MAIKO?
ARARE-CHAN, ARARE-CHAN.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT GEISHA HOUSES?
YOU BET NO INFORMATION ABOUT TRADITIONAL NIGHTLIFE ELUDES ME.
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE GO TO THIS TYPE OF PLACE?


AN AVERAGE OFFICE WORKER WOULDN'T DARE TO STEP FOOT IN ONE.
WOW.
tear
tear
HMM... PROBABLY WELL-TO-DO BUSINESSMEN?
THEY SAY HANAMICHI IS A VERY ADDICTIVE PLACE TO ENJOY YOURSELF.
A HANDKERCHIEF?
SO MONEY ISN'T A PROBLEM FOR THESE PEOPLE AT ALL.
AND SOMETIMES EVEN CLOTHING FEES OF THE GEISHA THAT SERVICE THEM*.
THE CLIENTS ARE CHARGED A LOT OF EXPENSES, SUCH AS PERFORMANCE FEES.
(* Custom dictates that a Geisha wear a different Kimono each month of the year. The large number required and the sheer expense of each Kimono prohibits the Geisha's directly owning them.)
.....

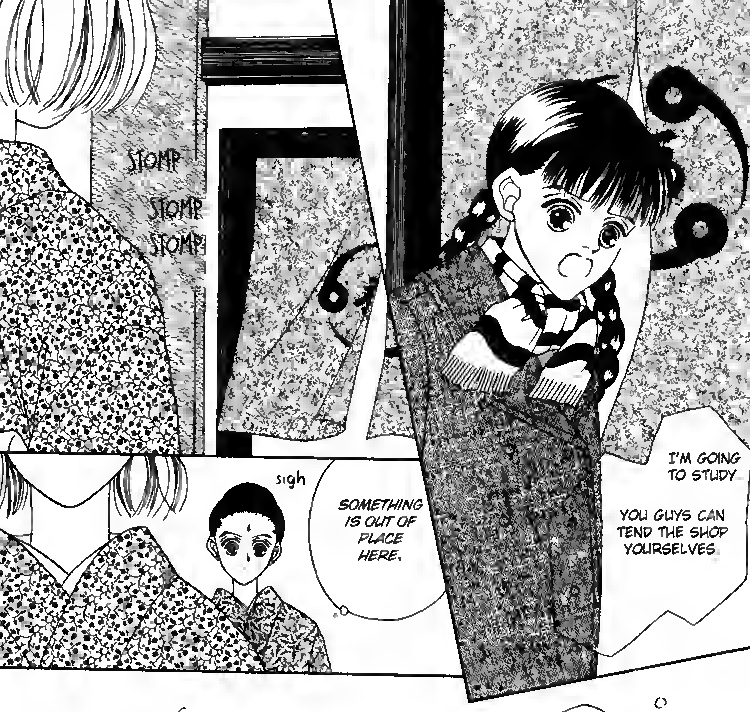
(*okiya = the lodging house a maiko or geisha lives in during the length of her nenki [the contract or career as a geisha])


OH
SHIJAKU-SAN LIVES IN THAT KIND OF WORLD?
AND IF YOU PREFER A CERTAIN GEISHA TO BE EXCLUSIVE TO YOURSELF, YOU MUST SHOWER THE OKIYA* WITH GIFTS, TOO
HOW MUCH MONEY IS THAT? YOU THINK ABOUT IT
EH?
ONEE-CHAN

AHA
SO SHIJAKU-SAN LOOKS LIKE ONEE-CHAN
HANA
HOW DID YOU BEFRIEND THIS SHIJAKU PERSON?
I ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED A LETTER AND SHE PICKED IT UP.
THEN WE HAD A NICE LONG CHAT. SHE SEEMED TO KNOW YOU TOO.
DON'T MEET WITH HER AGAIN.


AND TO THINK THAT SHE APPROACHED A MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL, IT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.
A MAIKO IS USUALLY ON TIGHT SCHEDULE YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE OF HER TIME.
EH? WHY? WE'VE ALREADY BECOME FRIENDS.
AND SHE'S YOUR ACQUAINTANCE TOO, ISN'T SHE?
HMPH
I'VE TALKED TO HER MYSELF.
SO I KNOW SHE ISN'T A BAD PERSON.
IF YOU'VE THAT MUCH SPARE TIME, SPEND IT PREPARING FOR THE EXAMS.
A STUDENT IN YOUR POSITION SHOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY AROUND.

HEY, HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THESE TWO?
THEN I'M NOT HELPING YOU ANYMORE!
IF YOU AREN'T HAPPY TO DO IT, YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I DIDN'T FORCE YOU YOU OFFERED TO HELP YOURSELF.
WHAT? NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME TO STUDY. DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU LIKED HAVING ME HELPING OUT IN THE SHOP?
ANYWAY, STAY AWAY FROM THAT PERSON.
NO.
AS IF I'D LISTEN TO YOU.



ONEE-CHAN IS SO COLD

SHE'S A MODEL STUDENT AND EXPECTS EVERYONE TO FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE.

SHE'S ALSO STUBBORN AND ALWAYS BENDS EVERYONE TO HER OWN WILL

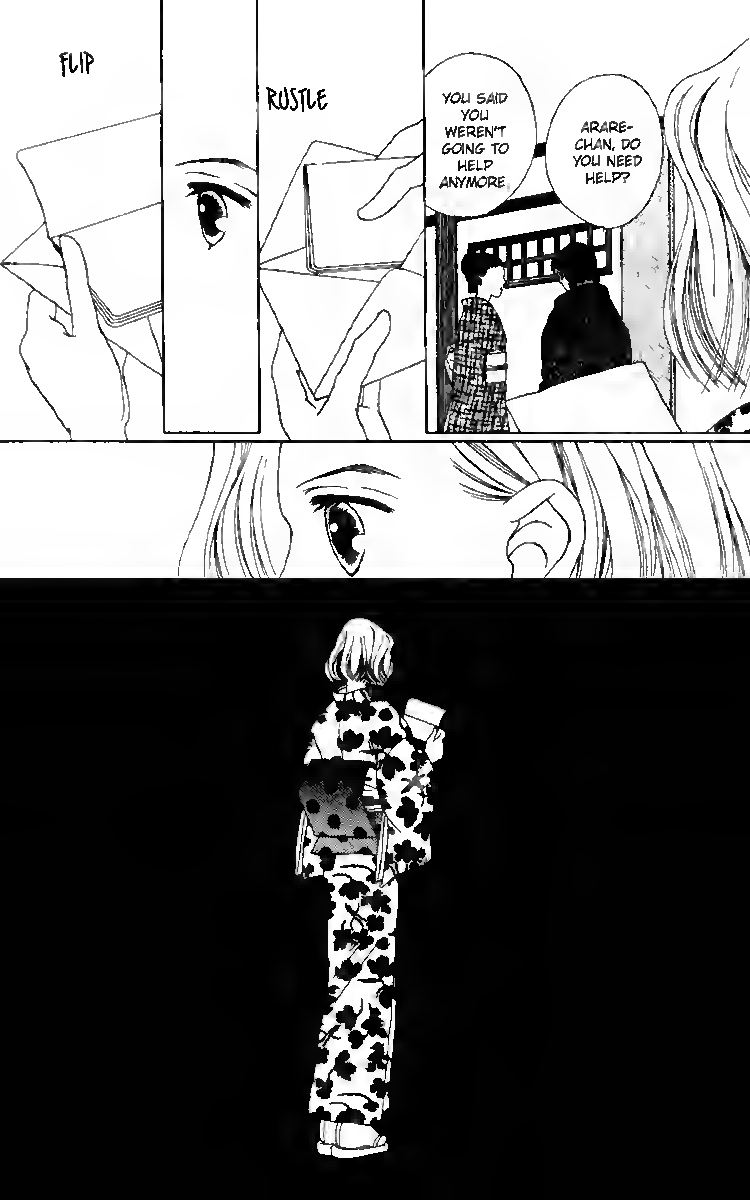
ARARE AND I ARE FORCED TO LIVE UP TO HER STANDARDS

SORRY IT'S BECAUSE OF ME YOU GOT SCOLDED
YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME AT ALL.
MY SISTER IS JUST AN UNREASONABLE PERSON THAT'S ALL
BUT I GUESS THAT'S HOW AN OLDER SIBLING IS
.....
HANA-CHAN.
DON'T LET YOURSELF CATCH A COLD BEFORE THE EXAM.
I'M SORRY WE HAVE TO STAND OUT HERE CHATTING.

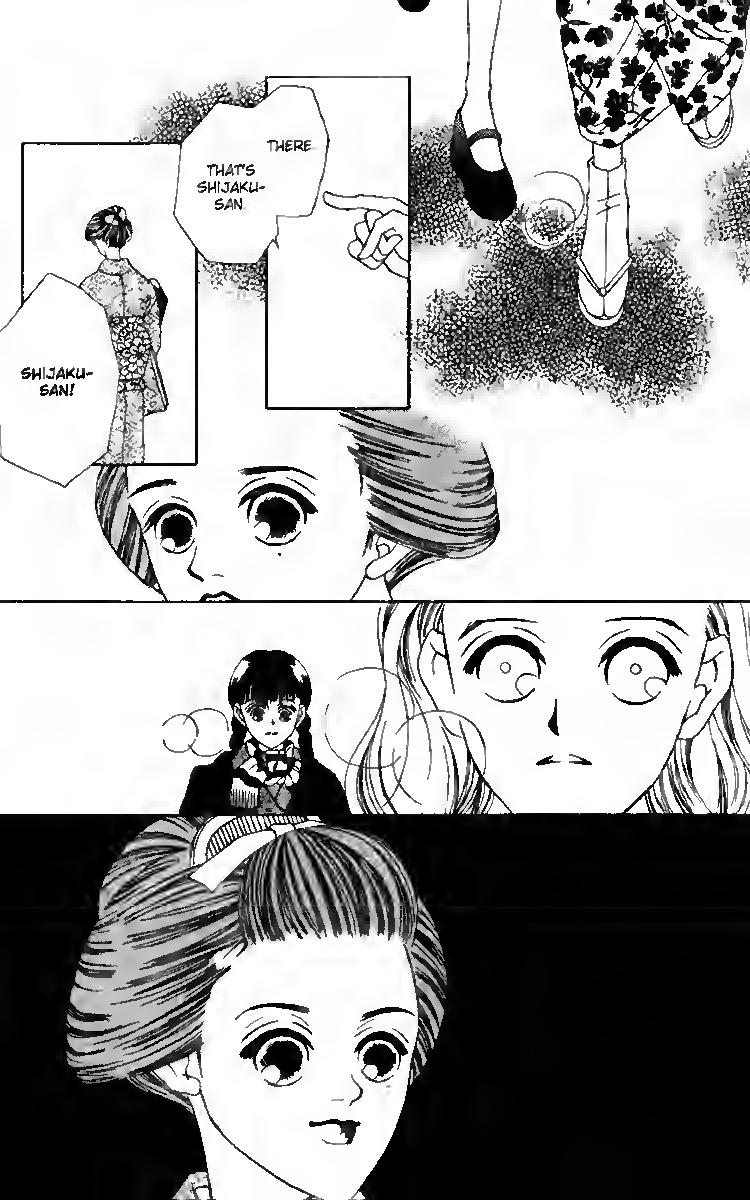
WE COULD HAVE SAT IN A SHOP AROUND HERE
BUT FOR A GEISHA LIKE ME, TO EAT OR DRINK IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD BE A DISGRACE TO HANAMICHI
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
IS THIS BECAUSE OF HANAMICHI'S TRAINING?
WAS MY REAL ONEE-CHAN
I WISH SHIJAKU-SAN

HINA-SAN AND ME ARE ALIKE?
FIRST I THOUGHT YOU AND ONEE-CHAN WERE ALIKE
BUT NOT ANYMORE. SHE'S NOT AS GENTLE AS YOU
YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
I SEE.
COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS TO HINA-SAN?
WELL, HANA-CHAN

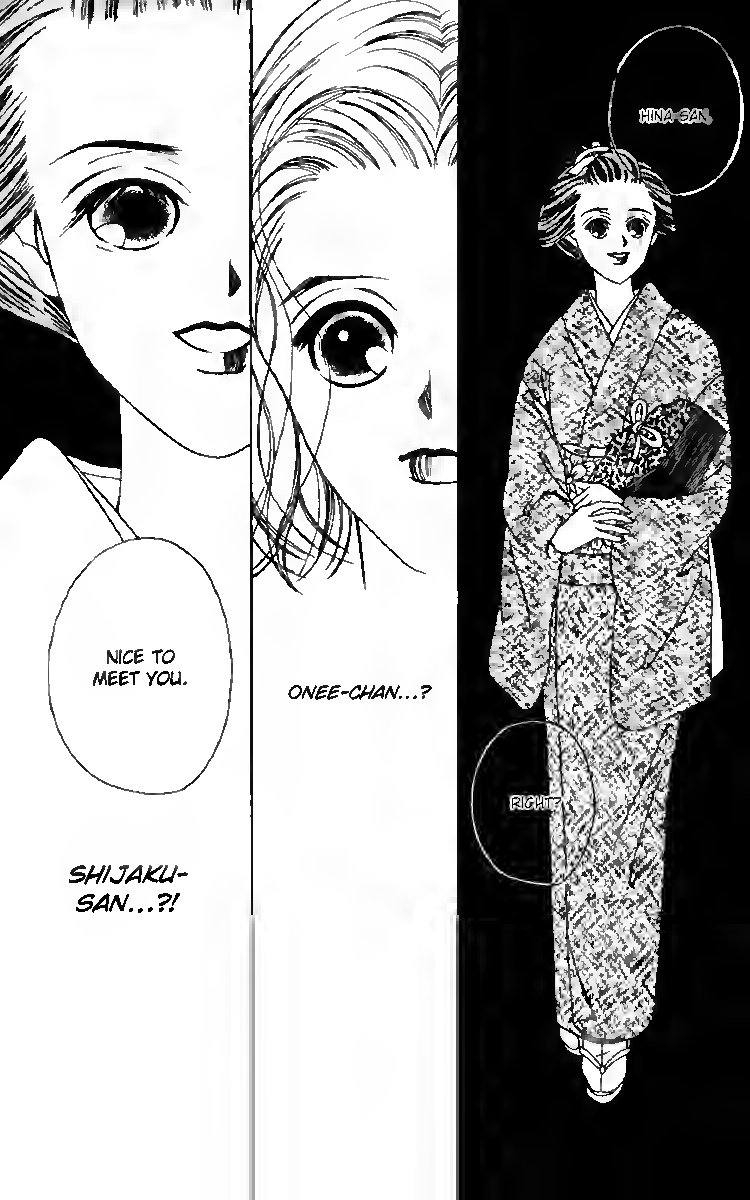
HERE SHIJAKU-SAN ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS
WELCOME HOME
THANK YOU I'D BETTER GO BACK NOW
OKAY, SURE
I'M HOME.


FLIP
RUSTLE
YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T GOING TO HELP ANYMORE
ARARE-CHAN, DO YOU NEED HELP?

WHERE IS SHE RIGHT NOW?
HANA!
SAVE IT.
I SAID I'LL HELP.
HANA...
YOU CAN CATCH HER IF YOU RUN.
WE PARTED JUST NOW RIGHT OVER THERE.
COME WITH ME. I NEED YOU TO TELL ME WHICH ONE THIS "SHIJAKU" IS.
AH, OKAY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? IT'S RARE TO HEAR HER RAISE HER VOICE.
SHIJAKU...?


THERE
THAT'S SHIJAKU-SAN
SHIJAKU-SAN!

THESE TWO...
EH...?
WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN THEM...?


HINA-SAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
ONEE-CHAN...?
RIGHT.
SHIJAKU-SAN...?!

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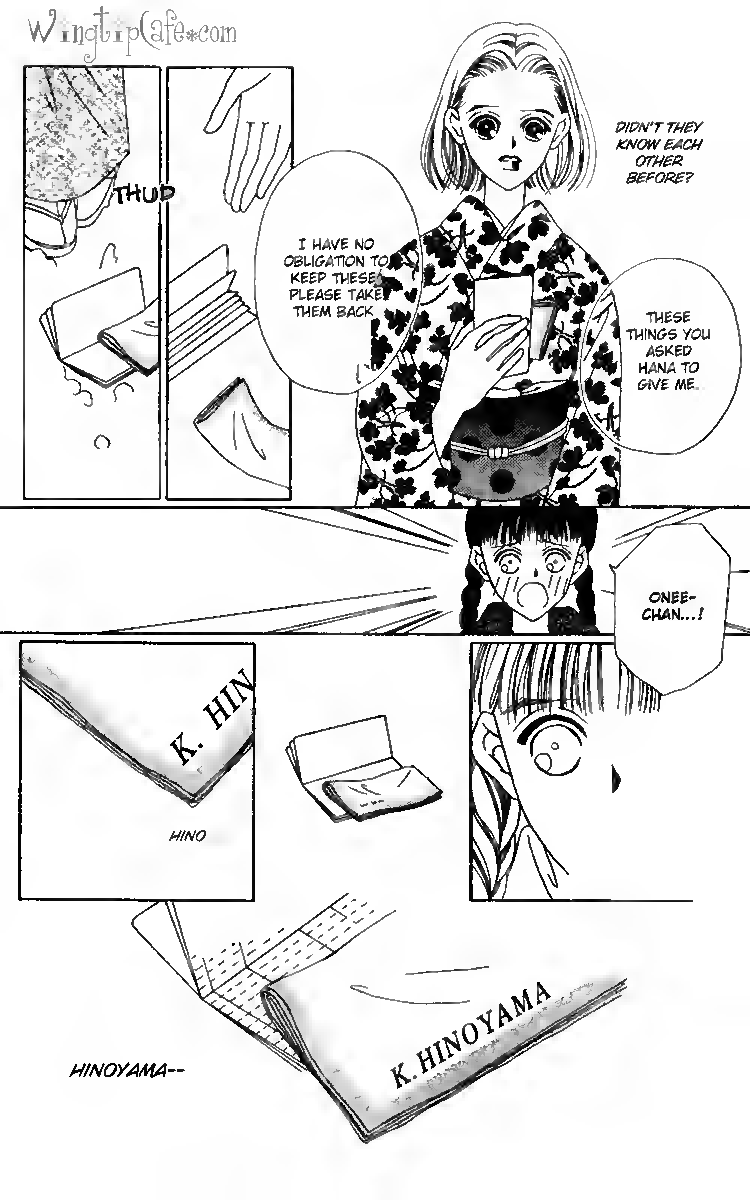
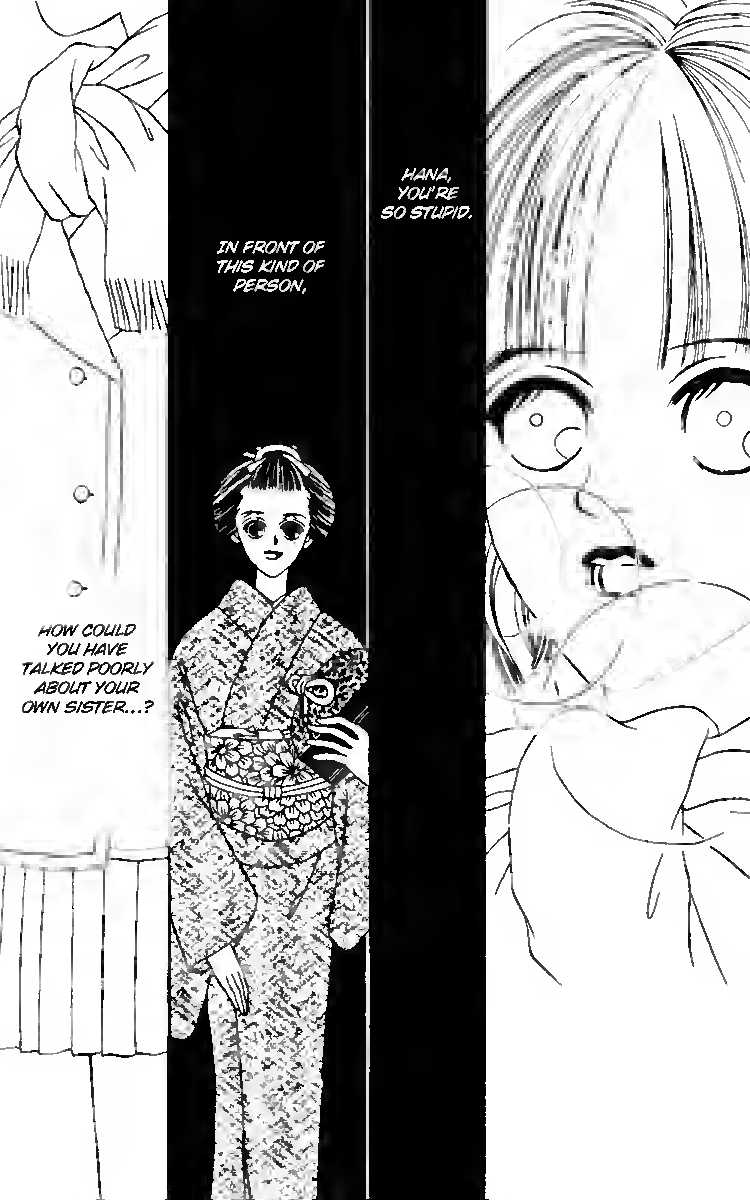
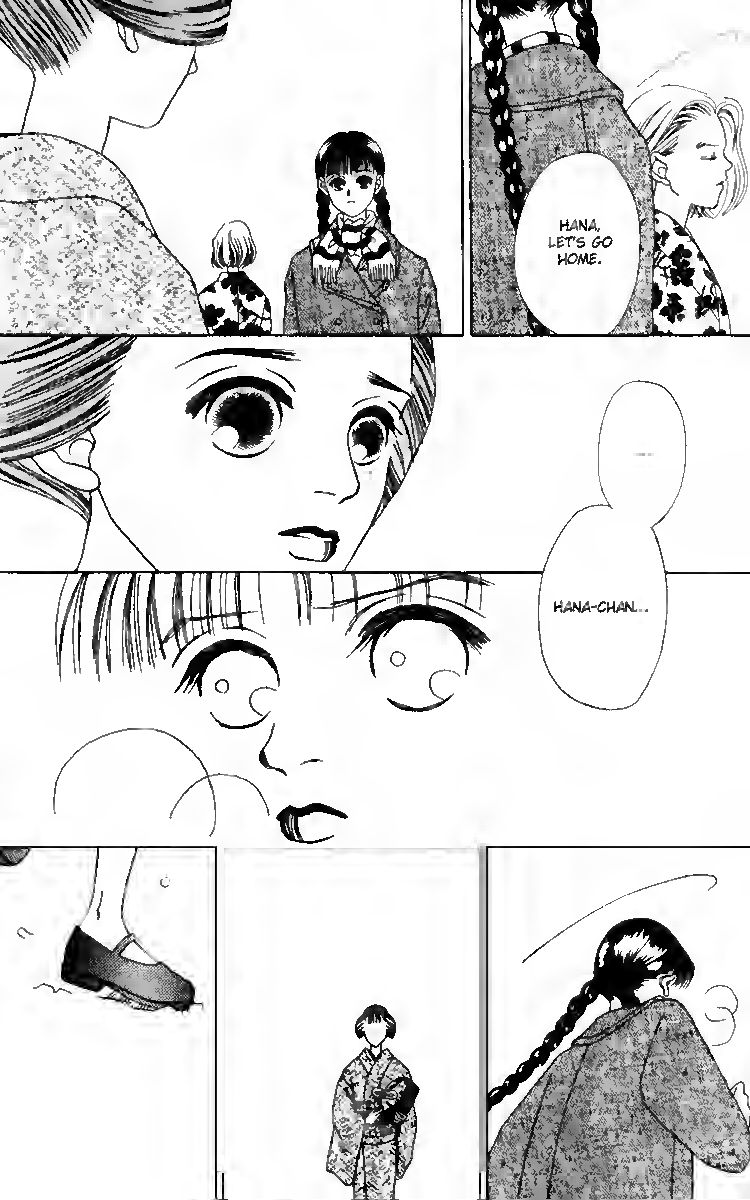
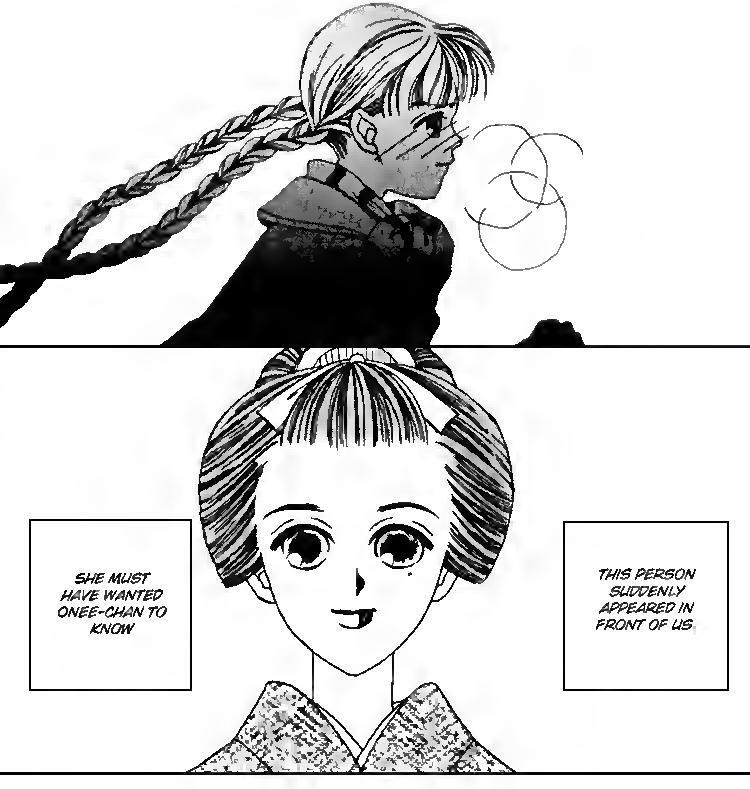


MONEY...
SO MUCH MONEY
FROM HINOYAMA-SAN
SAY IT TO ME DIRECTLY. YOU DON'T HAVE RESORT TO THIS
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY,
FROM HINOYAMA-SAN ?

I WISH SHIJAKU-SAN WAS MY REAL ONEE-CHAN.
STOP USING HANA AS A TOOL TO DO THIS KIND OF THING.
STOP IT.
SHE'S A MODEL STUDENT AND EXPECTS EVERYONE TO FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE
SHE'S ALSO STUBBORN AND ALWAYS BENDS EVERYONE TO HER OWN WILL
ONEE-CHAN IS SO COLD


HANA, YOU'RE SO STUPID.
IN FRONT OF THIS KIND OF PERSON,
HOW COULD YOU HAVE TALKED POORLY ABOUT YOUR OWN SISTER...?


HANA, LET'S GO HOME.
...
HANA-CHAN...



OF HER EXISTENCE.

Hanabiramochi
(lit. "flower petal mochi")

Flat round white mochi folded with pink color mochi (sweet bean paste) inside and a thin strip of sweetly flavoured gobo (burdock) Hanabiramochi is usually eaten at the beginning of the year and also served at the first tea ceremony of the new year

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Fukiyadon Houpo
by yuuHO yayomi

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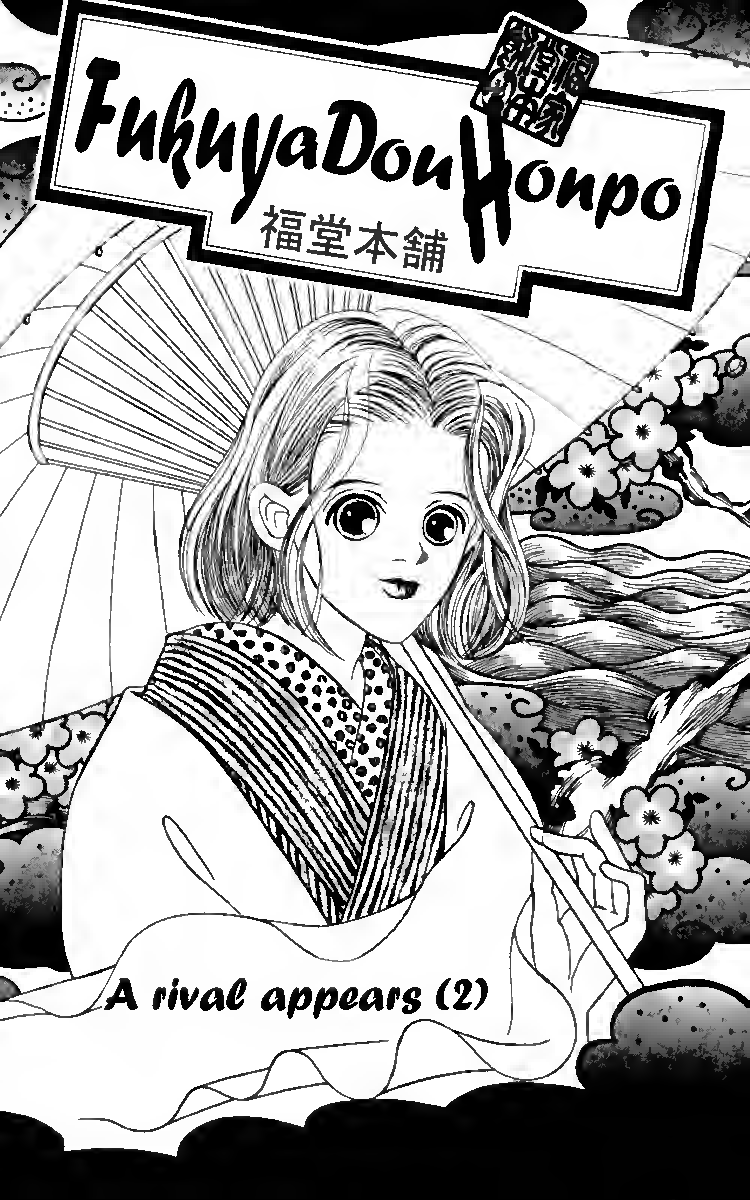

FukuyaDou Honpo
福堂本舗
A rival appears (2)

ONEE-CHAN
YOU'D BETTER TALK TO HINOYAMA-SAN ABOUT THIS
ONEE-CHAN!
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING BEFORE, RIGHT?
ABOUT BOTH SHIJAKU-SAN, AND THE BANK ACCOUNT,
RIGHT?

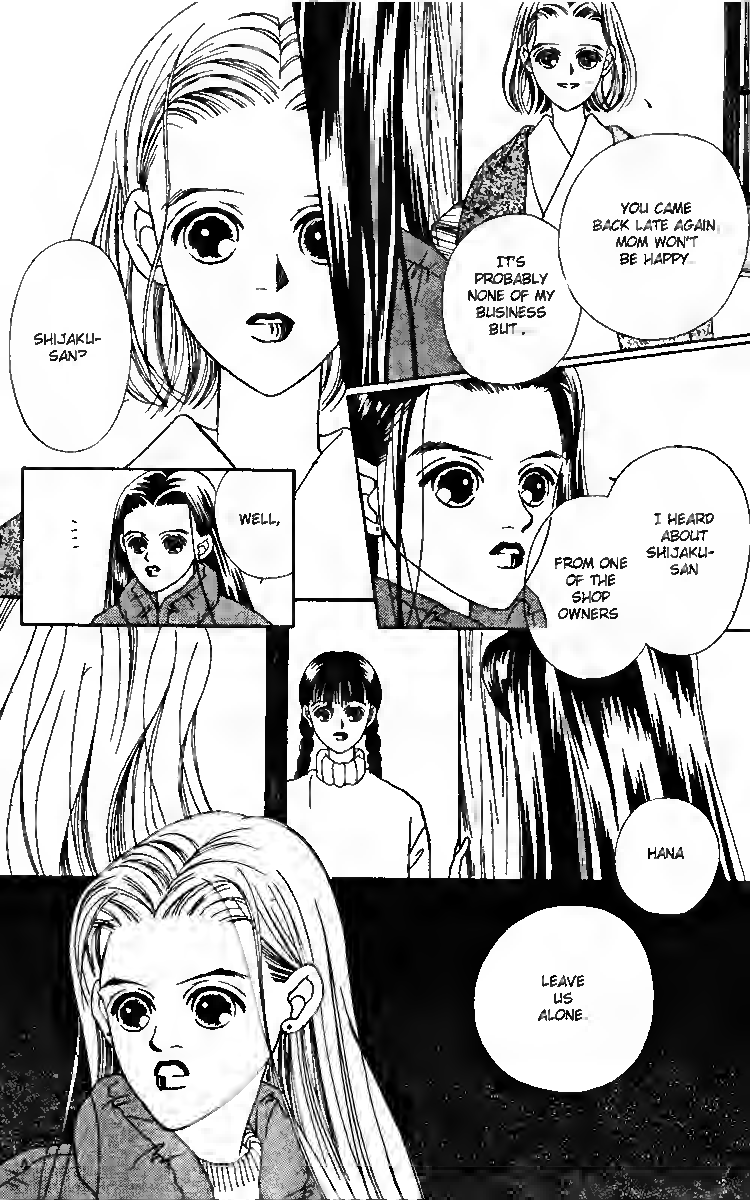
WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO HINOYAMA-SAN AND CLEAR THINGS UP?
OVER SUCH A TRIVIAL MATTER?
I'VE BRACED MYSELF FOR ANY SKELETONS IN HIS CLOSET.
HINOYAMA-SAN ISN'T A CHILD,
IT'S NATURAL THAT HE MIGHT HAVE SOME HISTORY.
THIS PROBLEM IS NOTHING TO ME. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY, HANA

BUT EVEN SO...
I SHOULDN'T BE WORRIED?
YOU'VE BRACED YOURSELF FOR THIS?
AREN'T YOU BEING TOO UNDERSTANDING, ONEE-CHAN?
THE SHOP IS BUSY.
LET'S GO INSIDE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE AN AGREEABLE PERSON BY NATURE, ISN'T THIS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE ANGRY ABOUT?
WOULDN'T ANYONE BE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
IF I WERE IN HER POSITION, I'D HAVE BEEN BOTH FURIOUS AND DEEPLY WORRIED.

SLIDE
ARARE-CHAN, ARE YOU GOING OUT?
YEAH.
HANA.
THAT SHIJAKU PERSON. IS SHE THE SHIJAKU OF MIYAKOTEI?
I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER ASKED HER WHERE SHE WORKS
DO YOU KNOW HER, ARARE-CHAN?
I DON'T KNOW HER DIRECTLY

ABOUT HOW HINOYAMA-SAN OFTEN WENT TO SEE SHIJAKU-SAN AT MIYAKOTEI
SLIDE
BANG
I'LL BE HOME LATER TONIGHT
WHAT SHOULD I TELL MOM?
DOESN'T MATTER
...

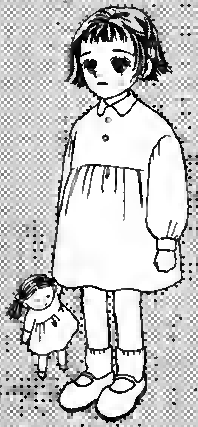
YOU'D BETTER TALK TO HINOYAMA-SAN ABOUT THIS.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS BEFORE, RIGHT? BOTH SHIJAKU-SAN, AND THE BANK ACCOUNT.
CAN I COME IN?
YEAH.
RIGHT?


YOU CAME BACK LATE AGAIN. MOM WON'T BE HAPPY.
IT'S PROBABLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS BUT,
SHIJAKU-SAN?
I HEARD ABOUT SHIJAKU-SAN
FROM ONE OF THE SHOP OWNERS
WELL,
HANA
LEAVE US ALONE.

NO. I'M INVOLVED IN THIS AS WELL
YOU KNEW THAT HINOYAMA-SAN'S FATHER HAS PASSED AWAY, RIGHT?
YES. MOM TOLD ME. IT WAS WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
HINOYAMA-SAN'S GRANDFATHER AND FATHER WERE BOTH WELL-KNOWN EPICUREANS.
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, HINOYAMA-SAN'S FATHER AND SHIJAKU-SAN'S MOTHER USED TO SEE EACH OTHER
SHIJAKU-SAN'S MOTHER WAS CALLED MAMEJAKU. SHE WAS ONCE ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER GEIKO IN HANAMICHI
HINOYAMA-SAN'S FATHER WAS HER PATRON.

BUT SHIJAKU-SAN'S MOTHER MARRIED SOMEONE ELSE AND RETIRED FROM HANAMICHI
UNFORTUNATELY, HER HUSBAND FELL SICK AND PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS LATER
SHIJAKU-SAN WAS THEIR ONLY CHILD.
OUT OF OPTIONS, MAMEJAKU-SAN CAME BACK TO ASK FOR HELP FROM HINOYAMA-SAN'S FATHER
OF COURSE, THEIR RELATIONSHIP WASN'T THAT OF ORDINARY OLD ACQUAINTANCES.
BUT NOT LONG AFTER THAT,
THE CAR THAT HINOYAMA-SAN'S FATHER AND MAMEJAKU-SAN RODE IN TOGETHER GOT IN AN ACCIDENT.
BOTH OF THEM DIED ON THE SPOT

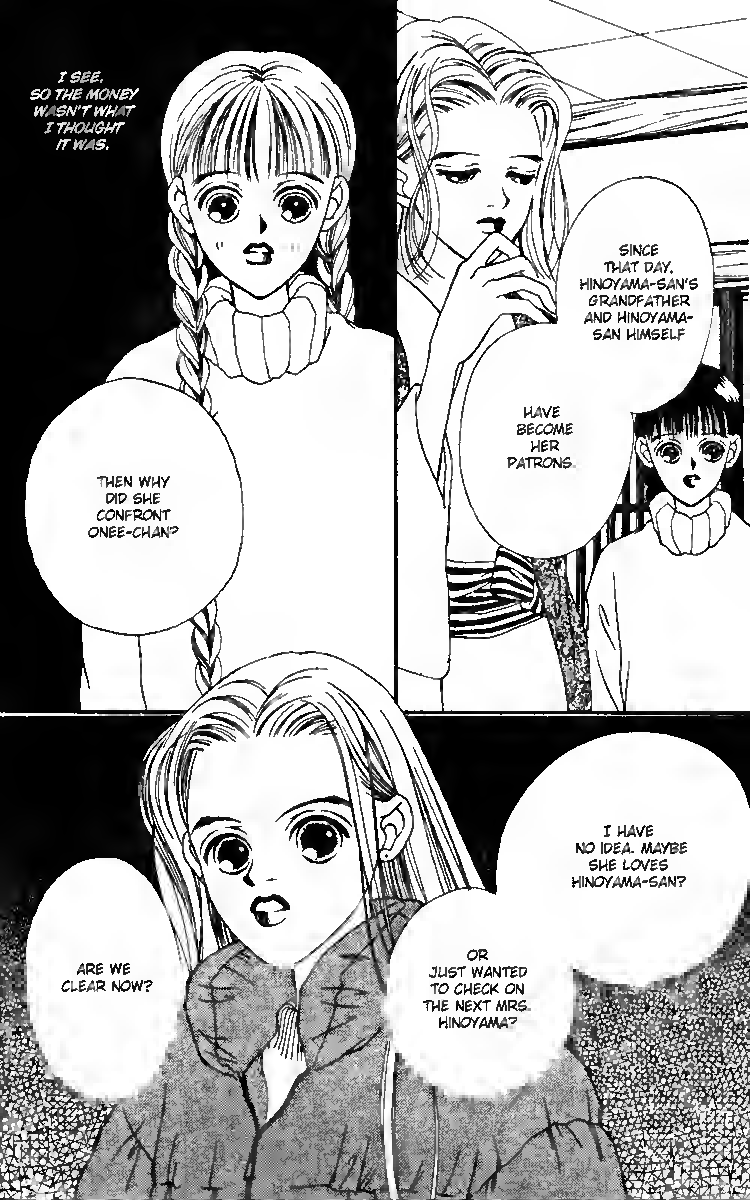
LEAVING SHIJAKU-SAN, WHO WAS STILL A CHILD, AN ORPHAN.

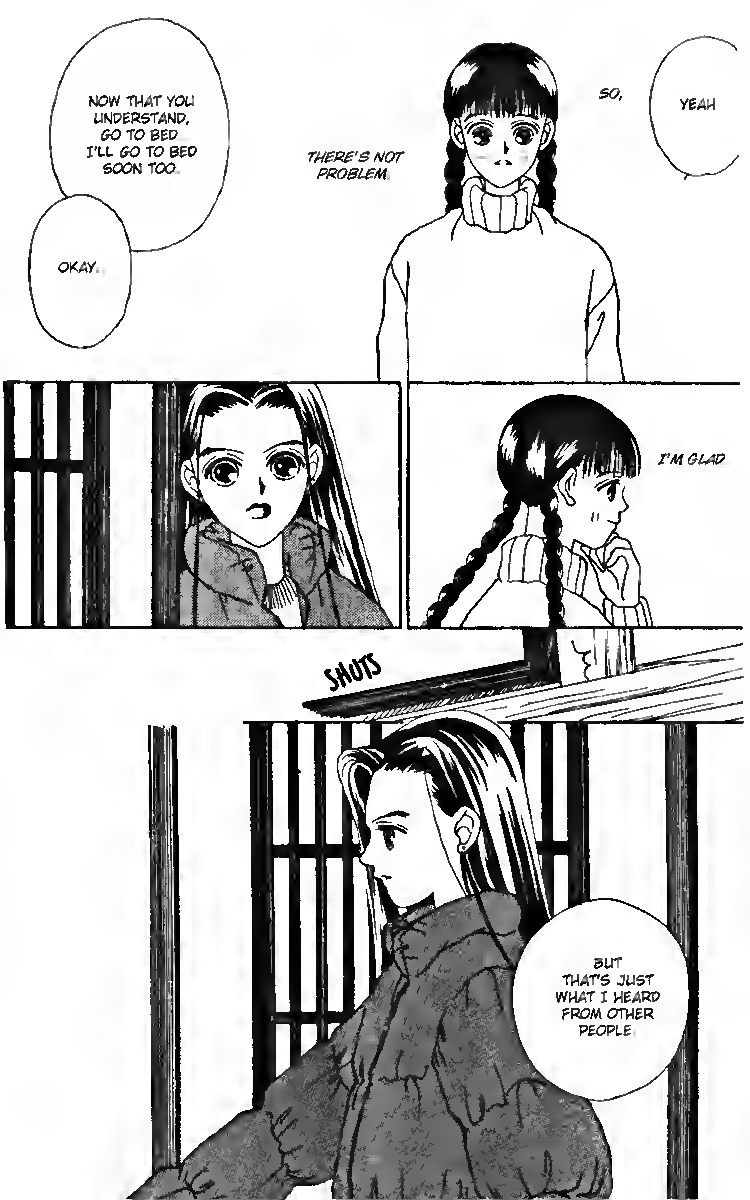


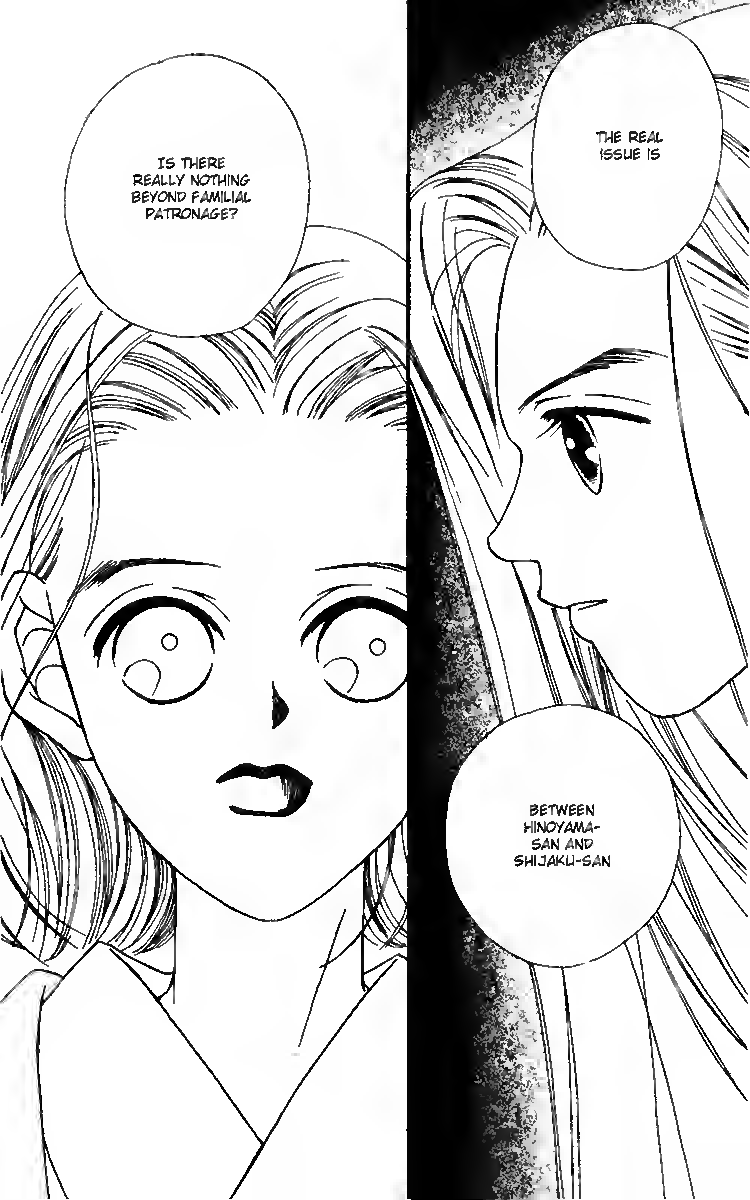
THE HINOYAMA FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER BUT THEY COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HER TO HER FATE

SO THEY ASKED ONE OF THEIR ACQUAINTANCES TO TAKE HER IN

WHILE PAYING FOR ALL OF HER EXPENSES, INCLUDING THE TUITION AND TRAINING


I SEE. SO THE MONEY WASN'T WHAT I THOUGHT IT WAS.
THEN WHY DID SHE CONFRONT ONEE-CHAN?
SINCE THAT DAY, HINOYAMA-SAN'S GRANDFATHER AND HINOYAMA-SAN HIMSELF
HAVE BECOME HER PATRONS.
I HAVE NO IDEA. MAYBE SHE LOVES HINOYAMA-SAN?
OR JUST WANTED TO CHECK ON THE NEXT MRS. HINOYAMA?
ARE WE CLEAR NOW?

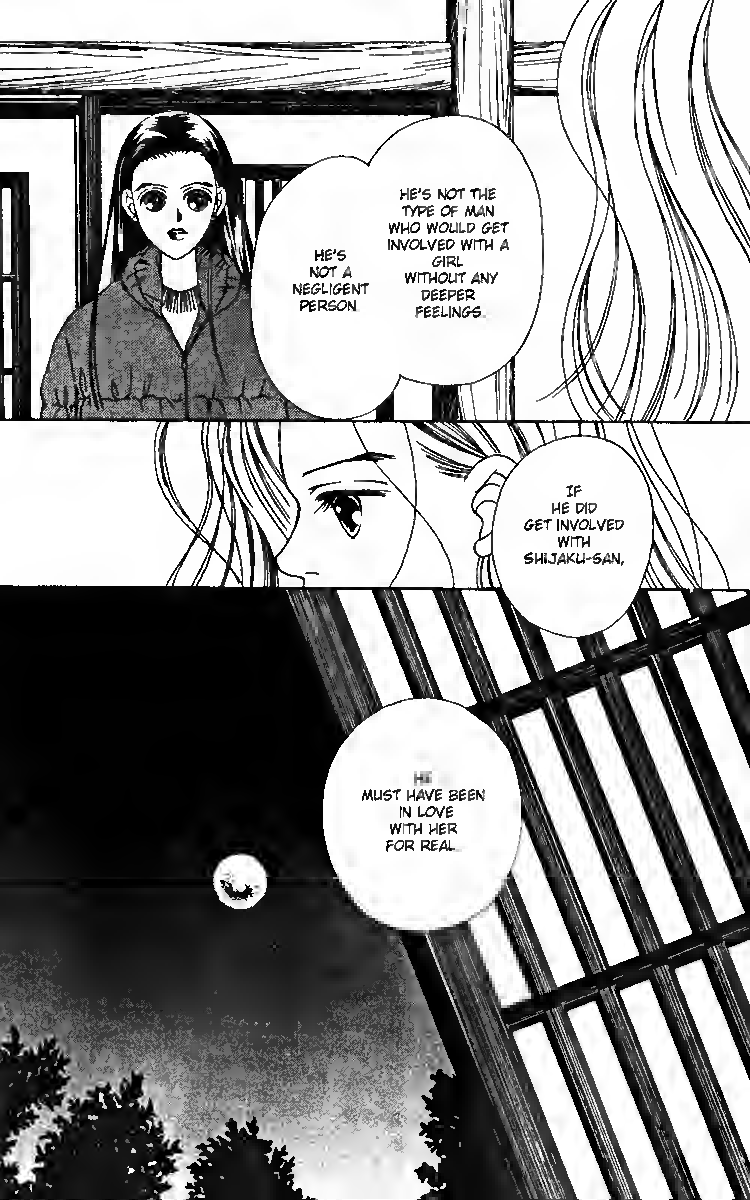

NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND, GO TO BED. I'LL GO TO BED SOON TOO.
OKAY.
THERE'S NOT PROBLEM.
SO,
YEAH
I'M GLAD
SHOTS
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT I HEARD FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

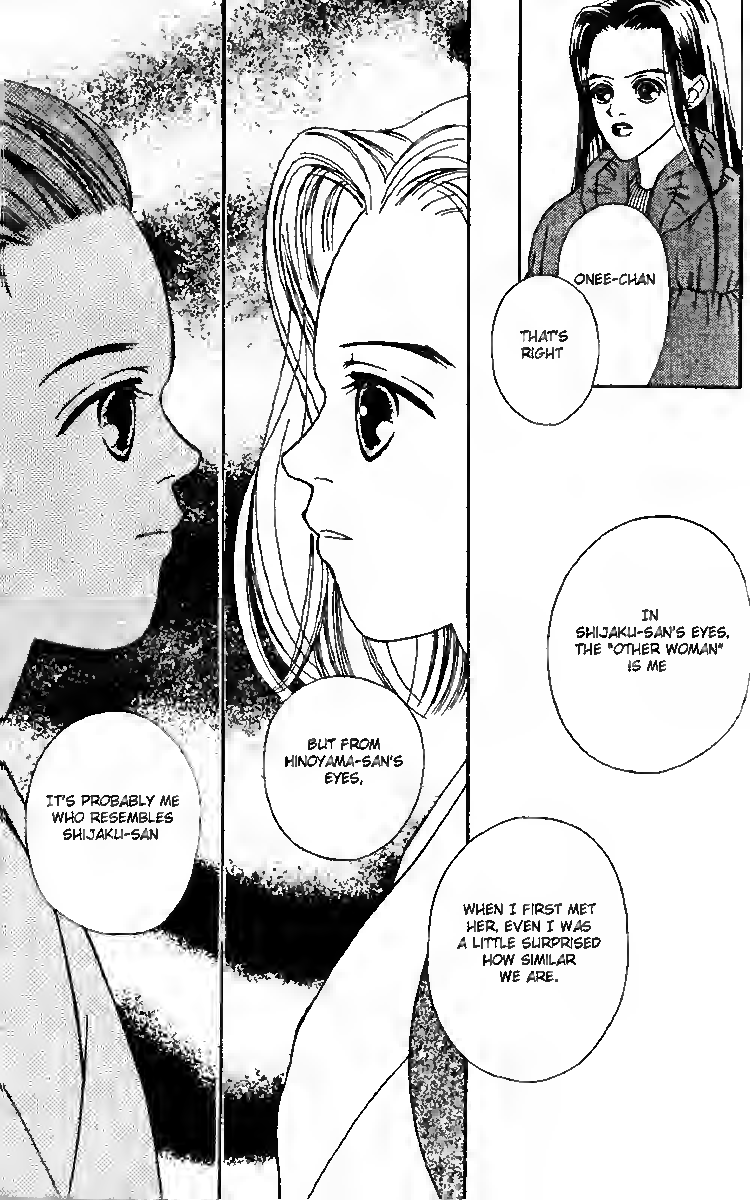

IS THERE REALLY NOTHING BEYOND FAMILIAL PATRONAGE?
THE REAL ISSUE IS
BETWEEN HINOYAMA-SAN AND SHIJAKU-SAN

MY STORY IS OLD NEWS, MORE THAN A YEAR BEFORE SHE BECAME A MAIKO.
WHO KNOWS WHEN HE STOPPED SEEING SHIJAKU-SAN? BEFORE OR AFTER ASKING YOU TO MARRY HIM?
THIS KIND OF MATTER, IF IT BECOMES KNOWN, WILL START SOME TASTY GOSSIP.
EVEN THOUGH HINOYAMA-SAN WASN'T ACTUALLY MARRIED TO SHIJAKU-SAN
PROBABLY NOT JUST THE FATHER.
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON, YOU KNOW?

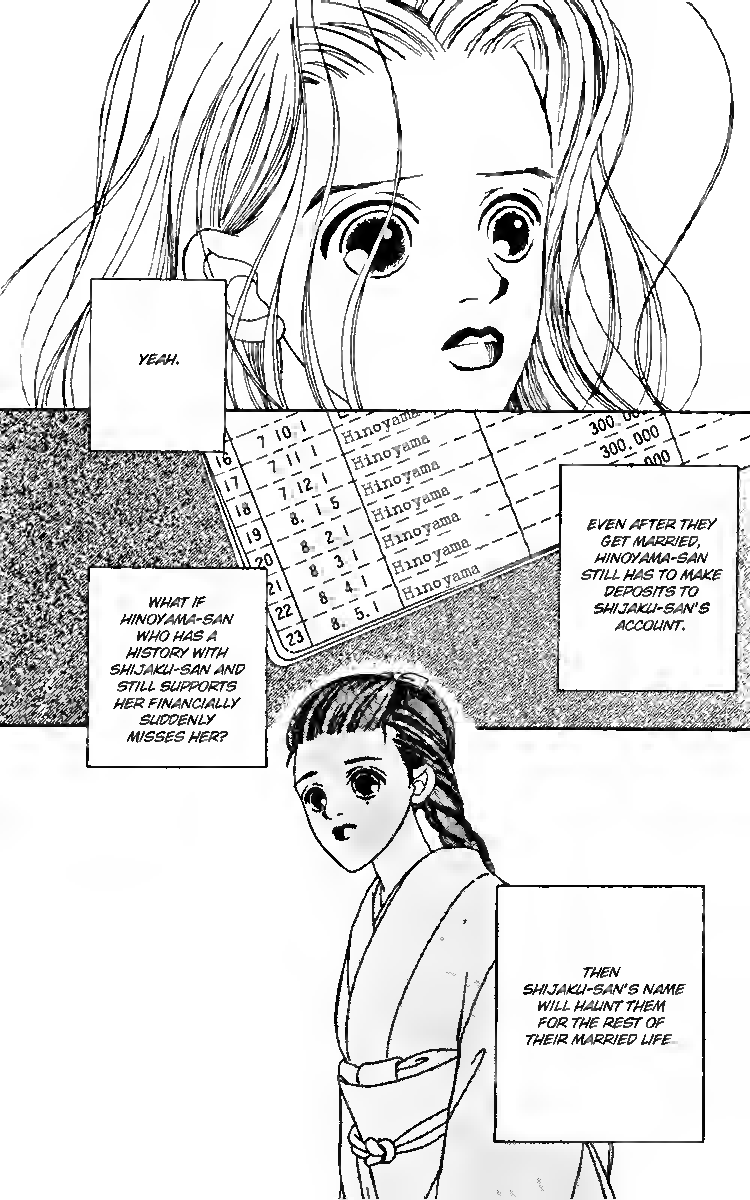
WHAT IF HE REALLY LOVES SHIJAKU-SAN,
BUT AS A MAN OF HIS STATUS,
HE CARED MORE ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE AND ABANDONED HER
AND CHOSE TO MARRY YOU INSTEAD
THIS KIND OF MAN SHOULDN'T HAVE BREATHED A BREATH IN THIS WORLD
IF THIS IS TRUE I FEEL SORRY FOR SHIJAKU-SAN...

IS IT WHY HE THOUGHT HE DIDN'T NEED TO REACH OUT AND HOLD YOUR HAND?
HE'S PROBABLY HELD THE HANDS OF COUNTLESS GEISHA ALL OVER KYOTO ALREADY...
INCLUDING THE ONE IN HIS FAMILY PATRONAGE...
SORRY, ONEE-CHAN. BUT I TRULY DESPISE THIS KIND OF GUY.
.....
ARARE, YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW...


HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF MAN WHO WOULD GET INVOLVED WITH A GIRL WITHOUT ANY DEEPER FEELINGS.
HE'S NOT A NEGLIGENT PERSON
IF HE DID GET INVOLVED WITH SHIJAKU-SAN,
HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN LOVE WITH HER FOR REAL.


ONEE-CHAN
THAT'S RIGHT
IN SHIJAKU-SAN'S EYES, THE "OTHER WOMAN" IS ME
BUT FROM HINOYAMA-SAN'S EYES,
IT'S PROBABLY ME WHO RESEMBLES SHIJAKU-SAN
WHEN I FIRST MET HER, EVEN I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED HOW SIMILAR WE ARE.

BUT...
IT'S IN THE PAST.
JUST GO TALK TO HINOYAMA-SAN ABOUT THAT SHIJAKU GIRL AND SETTLE IT.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT KIND OF OLD FLAME GOES OUT OF HER WAY TO CHALLENGE YOU LIKE THAT?
IT'S BECAUSE THE PAST DIDN'T STAY IN THE PAST THAT SHE TOOK A STEP FORWARD.
IF YOU WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE MARRIED INTO THE HINOYAMA'S HOUSE, IT'S GOING TO BE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED.


YEAH.
EVEN AFTER THEY GET MARRIED, HINOYAMA-SAN STILL HAS TO MAKE DEPOSITS TO SHIJAKU-SAN'S ACCOUNT.
WHAT IF HINOYAMA-SAN WHO HAS A HISTORY WITH SHIJAKU-SAN AND STILL SUPPORTS HER FINANCIALLY SUDDENLY MISSES HER?
THEN SHIJAKU-SAN'S NAME WILL HAUNT THEM FOR THE REST OF THEIR MARRIED LIFE.

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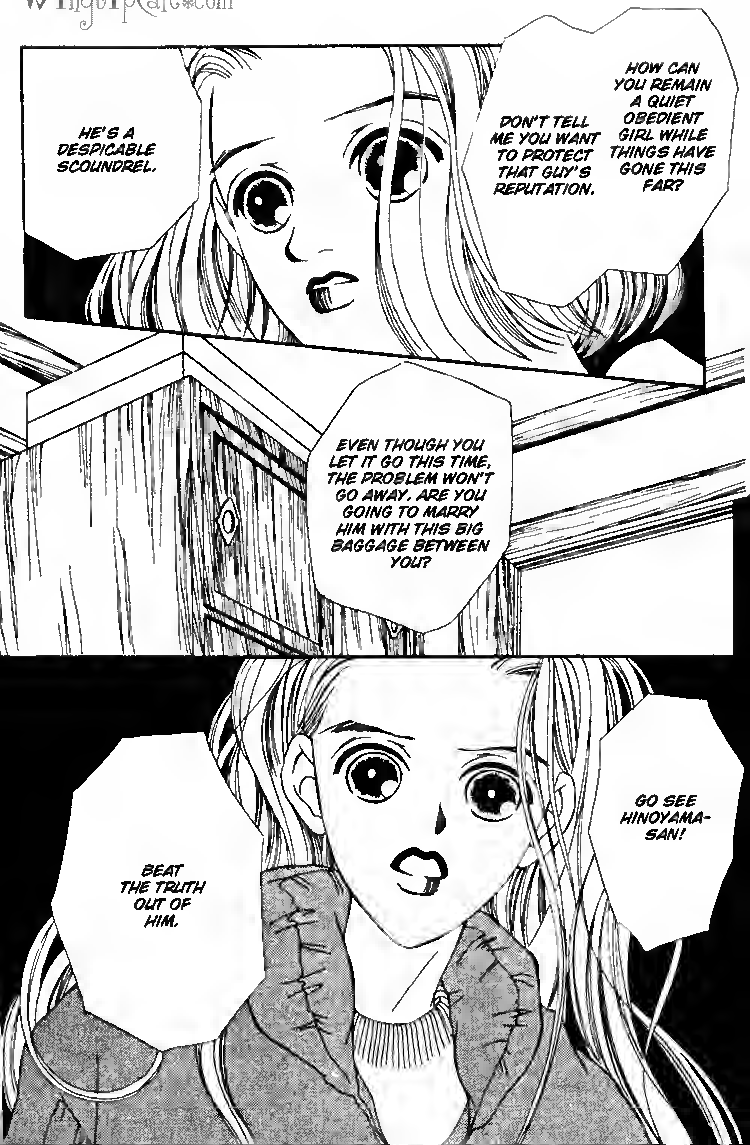

HOW CAN YOU REMAIN A QUIET OBEDIENT GIRL WHILE THINGS HAVE GONE THIS FAR?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT TO PROTECT THAT GUY'S REPUTATION.
HE'S A DESPICABLE SCOUNDREL.
EVEN THOUGH YOU LET IT GO THIS TIME, THE PROBLEM WON'T GO AWAY. ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY HIM WITH THIS BIG BAGGAGE BETWEEN YOU?
GO SEE HINOYAMA-SAN!
BEAT THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM.

YOU MAY NOT WANT TO,
OR THINK THAT IT'S BELOW YOU
BUT THIS SCREAMED FOR AN ACTION!
IF YOU DON'T GET MAD, HE WON'T LEARN HIS LESSON.
TRUST ME, ONEE-CHAN!

WHY ARE YOU SUCH A WIMP?! BE SELFISH AND STAND UP FOR YOURSELF FOR ONCE. WHY MUST OTHER PEOPLE'S NEEDS COME BEFORE YOURS?
SACRIFICE FOR THE SHOP,
FOR THE FAMILY,
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE AS A SAINT?!
BUT
IF I DON'T SAY ANYTHING
IF I'M PATIENT, IT MIGHT JUST GO AWAY

WHERE IS THE TRUE ONEE-CHAN?!
THIS TIME, WHOM WILL YOU SACRIFICE FOR?

HINA-SAN.
IS SOMETHING WRONG? IT'S ALREADY DARK.
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS NO ONE AT YOUR HOUSE

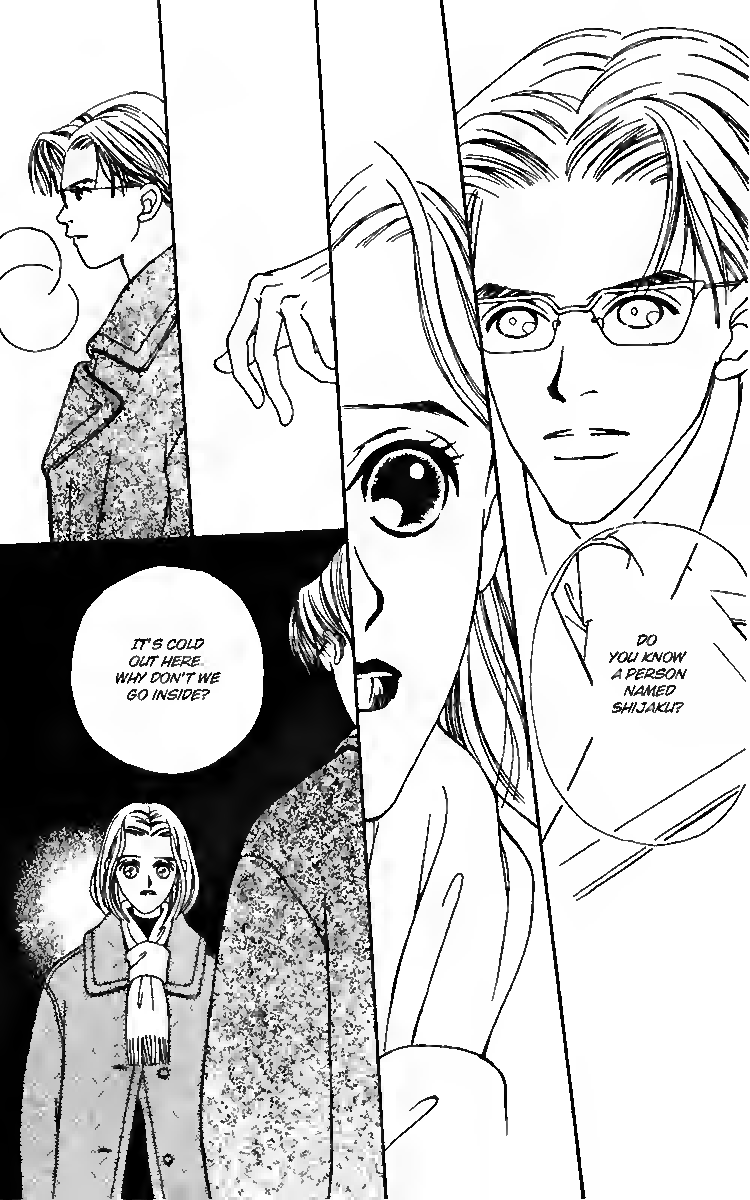
OH, GRANDPA SAID HE WOULD COME BACK LATER TONIGHT
ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I HAVE SOME-THING TO ASK YOU
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

ABOUT MY GRAND-FATHER,
.....
MY FATHER, OR MY MOTHER?
BUT THIS KIND OF QUESTION ...
MUST YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO ASK ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

I'M SORRY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S VERY ILL-MANNERED OF ME.
I'M GOING HOME.
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.

I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN IT
WHEN HIS FATHER PASSED AWAY, HINOYAMA-SAN MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE YOUNG...
TO LEARN THAT HIS FATHER PASSED AWAY WHILE BEING WITH ANOTHER WOMAN OTHER THAN HIS MOTHER
MUST HAVE BEEN A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO HAVE A THING OR TWO THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
ONEE-CHAN DOESN'T WANT TO BRING UP SUCH PAINFUL MEMORY. WHAT SHE REALLY WISHES TO ASK IS . .
HINOYAMA-SAN. . .
I'M SO SORRY.


DO YOU KNOW A PERSON NAMED SHIJAKU?
IT'S COLD OUT HERE. WHY DON'T WE GO INSIDE?

DO YOU KNOW A PERSON NAMED SHIJAKU?
THEN I'LL WALK YOU HOME. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO PUT MY BAG INSIDE FIRST
.....

HE SHOULD HAVE TURNED BACK
ONEE-CHAN THOUGHT HE SHOULD HAVE TURNED AROUND AND LOOKED HER IN THE EYES
THERE IS NO NEED.
I CAN WALK MYSELF HOME.

IT'S PROBABLY YOUR HABIT
TO ACT LIKE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED AND BRUSH OFF THE QUESTION BUT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE TIME, THE SITUATION, AND THE PARTNER AS WELL

SOMEDAY, HINOYAMA-SAN WILL PAY HIGHLY FOR THIS
POOR ONEE-CHAN
SHE FINALLY SUMMONED UP WHAT LITTLE COURAGE SHE HAD AND CONFRONTED HIM. BUT HINOYAMA-SAN JUST IGNORED HER QUESTION

http://hiraya.co.jp

柚子羹

YUZUKAN

Yuzukun

A special wagashi by Tenaya shop sold during the winter solstice only. Yokan (jelled dessert) made of Yuzu juice filled in real carved Yuzu

Yuzu = A kind of aromatic citrus fruit originated in East Asia

Fuhuyadon Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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WingluckStore